The German Tribune

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

mburg, 22 February 1981
wentieth Year - No. 977 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS



Genscher in Gulf and Middle East

oreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher ited Pakistan not only for talks with opposite number in Islamabad but to chair a conference of 13 German bassadors in the strife-torn Persian f region, where his state secretary, nter van Well, had been sounding out pects of cooperation between Ger- ny and the Gulf.

The official reason for Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's visit Islamabad was a routine conference the 13 German ambassadors in the sian Gulf area.

The fact of the matter was that Pakis- has come to play what is very much crucial role in view of volatile deve- ments in the Persian Gulf region.

Events in the area have been in a te of flux ever since the Soviet inva- n of neighbouring Afghanistan and war between Iraq and neighbouring n.

lamabad was carefully chosen as for the conference of ambassadors

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enable Herr Genscher to discuss the ure role of the Gulf states with Pre- dent Zia ul Haq and his foreign affairs viser, Agha Shahi.

The Gulf states would not only like to hieve a closer degree of regional coo- ration but also to establish cooperative s with Europe.

Herr Genscher would be happy to del relations on the pattern establish- in ties between the European Com- nity and the Asean countries.

Economic issues are naturally at stake , but in foreign policy terms the in purpose of his mission was the opolitical role of the Gulf region and w to stabilise it.

Bilateral economic ties will probably ve been more the brief of Foreign ffice state secretary Günter van Well, who was already in the area, first visiting Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.

As Bonn saw it the timing of Herr Genscher's visit was just right, coming as it did in the wake of the New Delhi conference of non-aligned countries, the inauguration of President Reagan and prior to the CPSU party conference in Moscow, which was scheduled for March.

Agha Shahi offered to brief the 10 European Community countries on his government's policy towards Afghanistan, so Herr Genscher was partly representing the EEC in Islamabad.

He will have been pleased to feel that ties between Bonn and Islamabad are fine. He and Chancellor Schmidt have recently held talks with leading Pakistani politicians on several occasions.

Cordial ties between Bonn and Pakistan as a key to closer political and economic ties between Europe and the Middle East are based on Pakistan being next door to India.

This has always obliged Bonn to pursue balanced development aid policies and Germany is indeed Pakistan's major aid donor.

Since Bonn first embarked on development aid Pakistan has received DM1.9bn in capital aid or aid promised, DM150m in technical assistance and nearly DM54m in food aid.

Then there is Bonn's aid to the 1.4m Afghan refugees in Pakistan, which has so far totalled DM26m.

Herr Genscher flew home via Cairo, where he conferred with Foreign Minister Hassan Ali, Deputy Premier Hosni Mubarak and President Sadat.

This two-day visit was more than a mere courtesy call. Bonn has noted with satisfaction that President Sadat in his recent address to the European Assembly sounded a different note on the EEC's Middle East peace bid than the European Community countries have been used to hearing from Jerusalem.

The Europeans have since felt they are on the right track and encouraged to persevere in their attempt to make a European contribution towards a settlement in the region.

Rudi Kilgus

(Mannheimer Morgen, 14 February 1981)



Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) called on his Pakistani opposite number Agha Shahi at the Foreign Office in Islamabad on 16 February. Herr Genscher was in the Pakistan capital to confer with German ambassadors in the Persian Gulf region and was keen to hear Pakistan's views on the area. (Photo: dpa)

Kyprianou in Bonn

The Cyprus head of state Spyros Kyprianou (left) was welcomed to Bonn by Federal President Karl Carstens (right) with full military honours on 13 February. After conferring with Professor Carstens he had a working lunch with Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher. President Kyprianou was in Bonn to brief the government on latest developments in his country. The Cyprus government hopes Germany might be able to bring influence to bear on Ankara to help bring about a solution to the problems of the partitioned Mediterranean isle. (Photo: dpa)

Belgrade and Bonn

In the chequered career of ties between Bonn and Belgrade both sides can currently claim to have reached a climax again. The visit to Bonn by Yugoslav Premier Veselin Djuranovic seems to have been to their entire mutual satisfaction.

But current cordiality calls for a reminder that relations have occasionally been fraught with discord in the past.

In 1957, for instance, Bonn broke off diplomatic ties with Yugoslavia because Belgrade had granted the GDR full recognition.

In 1968, when ties were restored, developments between the two countries were fairly encouraging, yet 10 years later the Yugoslav authorites still saw fit to set free four Germans suspected of being urban guerrillas.

Bonn's view of Yugoslavia was promtly reappraised, but the visit now paid by the able Yugoslav Premier will have helped to set matters right.

Admittedly, he is not constitutionally empowered to make the foreign policy decisions the Bonn Chancellor, say, is.

His views first have to go through the mill of collective 'leadership and self-administration bureaucracy before being endorsed and put into practice.

But the Belgrade newspapers are currently full of articles stressing mutual confidence, although this in itself is nothing out of the ordinary when Yugoslav leaders travel or receive visitors.

There are subtle differences nonetheless. When Foreign Minister Vrhovec visited the GDR recently the tenor of comments in the Belgrade Press was much more reserved.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 February 1981)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Disarmament main item on the agenda of Herr Genscher's talks in Stockholm

Foreign Minister Genscher's visit to Stockholm was his first for six years. Its purpose, he said, was to reaffirm old friendships and to forge new ones.

As his Swedish host, Foreign Minister Ola Ullsten, pointed out, there are no bilateral problems to affect ties between Bonn and Stockholm.

So their talks dealt mainly with world affairs, ranging from disarmament to development aid and Namibia.

Sweden is particularly concerned about the future of Namibia, having always shown a keen interest in the oppressed and poor nations.

It is the only country in the world to spend more than one per cent of its gross national product on development aid and to do so with full public approval.

In a recent poll 50 per cent of the Swedes questioned said they were in favour of retaining Swedish development aid at its current generous level and 15 per cent even wanted to increase it.

Twenty-four per cent felt aid ought to be cut and 11 per cent were in favour of scrapping it altogether.

These figures are particularly interesting in view of Sweden's serious economic depression and the universal appeals for thrift.

It is hard to imagine that people in the Federal Republic of Germany would give development aid such spontaneous and widespread support if they were to be queried.

So it was hardly surprising that Sweden asked Herr Genscher to intercede with the Western allies to see to it that South Africa is obliged to pull out of Namibia.

It was high time, the Swedes said, that the Namibian people were allowed to look after their own affairs and their political leaders were entrusted with power.

The second request Sweden made was to urge the United States to resume the Salt talks. Sweden has long played a leading role at disarmament conferences and it is no coincidence that the International Peace Research Institute is based in Stockholm.

In his speech at the Swedish Foreign Ministry Herr Genscher referred to the importance of the balance of power for

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

the security of Sweden, Northern Europe and, indeed, the Federal Republic of Germany.

Imbalance or the superiority of one side over the other undermined political and military stability and put paid to the groundwork of East-West cooperation.

He referred to the Franco-German communiqué of 6 February, which noted that a position of weakness could no more be tolerated than could a desire for military superiority.

This is a comment that is unlikely to be much to the liking of the new US administration.

The two Foreign Ministers stressed in the course of intensive deliberations how important moderation was, especially with regard to Poland.

Poland must be given a chance to solve its own problems, just as moderation was advisable in other hot spots, such as the Near and Middle East, southern Africa, Indo-China and Lati[n Ame]rica.

The Madrid CSCE review conf[erence] was of major importance and o[...] keeping with the French proposal, [...] entrusted with convening a Europ[ean] disarmament conference.

Its brief must be to negotiate c[onfi]dence-building measures in a Europ[e ex]tending from the Atlantic to the U[rals]. Confidence was indivisible, Herr G[en]scher said.

Arms control had to be based o[n a] balance of power, preferably at a [...] level of armament as possible.

He ended by noting that more [than] half Sweden's foreign trade wa[s with] member-countries of the Europ[ean] Community, the Council of E[urope] being the link between the EEC [...] non-aligned or neutral countries a[nd] Sweden.

The more intensively Sweden [...] progress in Western Europe, with d[ue] regard for its neutrality, the mor[e] progress would be in Sweden's [...] interest.

Mr Ullsten said that Bonn's fo[reign] policy had been welcomed on more [than] one occasion by Sweden, especially [the] improvement in East-West ties it [...] helped to bring about.

The detente policy pursued by W[illy] Brandt and Walter Scheel had been [ex]tremely important for the entire w[orld] and there was still no alternative t[o the poli]cy of detente. *Günter Graffenb[erger]*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 11 Februar[y 1981])

El Salvador claims clash

Heiner Geissler, general secretary of the Christian Democrats (CDU), has expressed grave doubts as to the reliability of information on El Salvador released by the German section of Amnesty International.

In a letter published in Bonn he doubted whether the Amnesty general secretary seriously wanted to safeguard human rights in the troubled Central American country.

Herr Geissler, himself an Amnesty member, said he was willing to talk with his Amnesty opposite number, Herr Frenz, and outline his personal impressions on the political situation and human rights in El Salvador.

He had been criticised at a Social Democratic public meeting in Munich for having said, on his return from El Salvador, that President Duarte was a middle-of-the-road man fighting to maintain a middle-of-the-road democracy.

Herr Frenz said his comments had been unsuspecting, blue-eyed and cynical.

Herr Geissler says the Duarte government is fighting both armed right-wing extremists and a left-wing guerrilla movement backed financially and militarily by Cuba dnd the Soviet Union.

The struggle could only be won if world opinion were told the truth and accepted it without fear or favour. Nothing was to be gained by spreading deliberate misinformation via the Socialist International.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 February 1981)

President Sadat: plea for peace to Euro-MPs in Luxembourg

Many Euro-MPs could hardly believe their ears when President Sadat of Egypt addressed the European Parliament in Luxembourg on 10 February.

It was most unusual to hear a prominent speaker say he did not believe in forecasts of gloom and predictions that the end was nigh as far as Western civilisation was concerned.

Europe (he did not even mention America) had a great future ahead of it, to judge by scientific and intellectual achievement.

It was no less surprising to hear President Sadat say he was not a man who felt morality was an outmoded concept. Was this an appeal for a rethink?

He was certainly canvassing for European support and warning against misunderstandings that were likely to arise from anti-Islamic and pseudo-scientific outpourings by Western publicists about Muslims and Islam.

He was all in favour of a religion based on tolerance, a belief based on love, not hatred. Ayatollah Khomeini could not be taken as representative of Muslim belief.

President Sadat was referring to Iran when he mentioned a system based on chaos.

Europe must take President Sadat up on his offer and do so without hesitation. He is willing to negotiate just peace terms with the countries of the Middle East, then to aim at fair partnership between Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

His commitment to peace with Israel makes it easier for Europe to lend a hand, especially as the Foreign Ministers of all Arab states offered to cooperate in this respect in 1973.

But President Sadat put paid to illusions that the Camp David talks could simply be ignored. "I have not come to sell out Camp David," he said.

Hermann Bohle

(Kieler Nachrichten, 11 February 1981)

Bonn backs bona fide arms cu[ts] at Madrid conference

Jörg Kastl, head of Bonn's delegation to the CSCE review conference in Madrid, has warned the Soviet Union not to misconstrue the West's position on disarmament.

The European disarmament conference proposed by France but on which the Soviet Union was also keen could only be held if the confidence-building measures to be negotiated were to cover all of European Russia.

Agreement would have to be reached in Madrid on this point before a European disarmament conference could be convened.

Herr Kastl noted that for his country peace in Europe was a vital necessity, given German history and its geographical location.

Keeping the peace called for a balance of military power between East and West. This balance must either be kept or, wherever necessary, restored.

It had increasingly urgently needed restoring in recent years, a serious imbalance having arisen.

Over the past decade Western defence endeavours had more or less marked time, whereas the Soviet Union had maintained an arms build-up at considerable expense.

After reaching strategic nuclear parity with the United States Russia had gone on to further strengthen and modernise its conventional forces, which were already far superior to the West's.

Since the mid-70s the Soviet Union had threatened Western Europe more than ever before with its up-to-the-minute medium-range missiles.

He also dealt with a comment by chief Soviet delegate Leonid Ilyichev, who had said there was no room at the conference for parasites, by which he had meant the United States.

America, Mr Ilyichev claimed, wanted

Süddeutsche Zeitung

to gain unilateral disadvantages t[o the] detriment of the Soviet Union.

Herr Kastl said all land-based fo[rces] in Europe ought to be covered by t[he] confidence-building measures en[...] and only the Soviet Union refus[ed to] agree to this provision.

Was Moscow unable to appreciate [...] this insistence on special status wa[s de]signed only to sow the seeds of [...] mistrust? The chief Bonn delegate [...] once more with the French disarma[ment] proposals, with which his govern[ment] was very much in approval, as reaffi[rm]ed at the 6 February Franco-Ger[man] summit in Paris.

After concluding the discussion [...] which had failed to bring about any [evi]dent signs of rapprochement betw[een] the viewpoints of East and West, [the] Madrid conference had started dra[fting] its final communiqué. *Udo Bergd[oll]*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 February [1981])

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: [...] Heinz, Editor: Alexander Anthony. English [...] sub-editor: Simon Burnett. – Distribution [...] Georgine Picone.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH. 23 Schoene [...] Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 05 1. Telex: 02-14733.

Advertising rates list No. 13 – Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich [...] Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by [...] MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York [...] 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints [are] published in cooperation with the editorial [staffs of] leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of [Germany]. They are complete translations of the original [...], in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

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PARTY POLITICS

Bonn's detente leeway is strictly limited

[Aft]er weeks of sniping on key Bonn [gove]rnment foreign and domestic policies [fro]m the ranks of Chancellor Schmidt's [ow]n Social Democratic Party a tired but [hap]py Willy Brandt, the SPD leader, [emer]ged from a 12 February all-night [sess]ion of the party's national executive [wit]h overwhelming support for a five-[poin]t programme wholeheartedly endors[ing th]e Chancellor and the SPD-FDP [coal]ition's stated policies.

This confidence vote was preceded by weeks in which Schmidt had been the target of bitter and unrestrained attacks in his own party.

But how are we to interpret this homage to Schmidt? Should it be seen as praise and encouragement or as a disguised warning not to stray from the agreed path?

At the moment one has to assume that the motives for this expression of gratitute were manifold. This is of course something the Social Democrats must come to terms with themselves.

However it is another matter once we turn our attention to foreign and defence policy. This is a matter not just for one party but for the whole country.

There are many important factors which make governing at this time particularly difficult. Thanks to Soviet rigidity, Afghanistan is a crisis point. The conflicts in the Near and Middle East continue to smoulder. Unless this conflict can be resolved, the West could find itself plunged into an energy catastrophe.

The climate between the world powers remains icy, the unrest in Poland is heading for a new climax.

It is utterly illusory to discuss Bonn's foreign and defence policy without also taking into account the background. Analysing this background does not, however, condemn the government to inaction.

The phrase objective and inescapable forces has all too often been used by politicians to ward off even reasonable objections to their actions.

But there are basic political facts which cannot be talked away. One such basic fact is that German and European policies are going to have to cope with the change in the American leadership.

As the coalition agrees that without the defence guarantee given by the USA, Europe would be forced into another form of dependence, the primary task of Bonn's Nato policies must be to convince its partners of the correctness of its position. This is precisely what it is now trying to do in its dealings with Washington.

Anyone going around saying he knows exactly what President Reagan is going to do must have superhuman prophetic gifts. Behind the thundering pronouncements from Washington there is considerable uncertainty about what policies are likely to be most successful in future.

If the United States and the Soviet Union could be persuaded that the military balance of power between them is equal, we would have the worst behind us.

No government in Bonn can do this alone. We need all the support we can get from our European allies. But it is difficult enough to bring about a European consensus even in decisive defence matters.

Given this country's special position, the Bonn government's ability to act is of vital importance. Not until a majority of European governments is prepared to tell the USA that any conflict would affect Europe far more directly than the USA will Germany be able to influence developments in the direction of detente.

However, only a Germany capable of defending itself is in a position to reject demands in the military sphere which could only increase the danger of conflict.

This applies to the neutron bomb and it also applies, though differently, to the Nato modernisation decision.

Egon Bahr, whom no one would dream of calling a cold warrior, has rightly pointed out that only determined policies will get Moscow to the negotiating table.

Those who want to deprive the Bonn government of all its levers here cannot expect even heavier weights to be moved.

Werner Holzer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 February 1981)



Schleswig-Holstein SPD leader Klaus Matthiesen (left) and Chancellor Schmidt in days when they still saw eye to eye (Photo: dpa)

Public debate or in camera?

[I]t used to be said that the CDU/CSU [d]iscussed its problems in the market [pla]ce and the SPD did so behind closed [doo]rs. *Now it* seems that the Social [Dem]ocrats have learnt a lot about debat[ing th]eir differences in public.

[Wit]h the FDP, this trend has been com[plete]ly reversed. In the 60s it was part [of] the Liberals' charm that their contro[vers]ies were fought out before an inte[res]ted public.

A vertiginous glimpse of the abyss of [ex]tinction changed all this. The sheer [nee]d to survive made the FDP leader[shi]p decide that discretion was the better part of valour. Since then, internal [diff]erences have been fought out strictly [in] camera.

The FDP now seems to have broken [out] of this self-imposed straitjacket and [to] be vying with the Social Democrats [in] public ferocity of discussion.

[Fo]reign Minister and party leader [Han]s-Dietrich Genscher got no joy out [of h]is party either. They did not want [the] FDP to be the vanguard of the [opposi]tion, as in the case of the neutron [bomb] three years ago.

[A] second attempt to present the FDP [as s]upporting the delivery of tanks to [Saud]i Arabia also failed. When FDP MP [Jürg]en W. Möllemann, Genscher's trusty squire in the FDP, gave hints of [favo]uring such a scheme, he was publicly [ca]lled to order by FDP floor leader [Wolf]gang Mischnick. Mischnick also [sai]d loud and clear that there was no [majo]rity support in the FDP for tank [expor]ts to Saudi Arabia.

[A]ll this goes to show that rebellions [in] the coalition parties interact upon [one] another. If the SPD Left revolts [again]st its leaders, the FDP does not [want] to be left behind. What left-wing [...] man can afford to have his constituency party tell him that he has not [...] or prevented, as much as his left-[wing] counterpart in the SPD?

Peter Hopen

(Bremer Nachrichten, 11 February 1981)

Matthiesen steps down

Chancellor Schmidt's cautious commitment to building Brokdorf nuclear power station was too much for Schleswig-Holstein SPD leader Klaus Matthiesen. He said he would not be standing as Shadow Land Prime Minister in the 1983 Schleswig-Holstein elections.

A flexible politician such as Matthiesen could of course have second thoughts, as the urgent request of his party or for other reasons. He tried and failed in 1975 and 1979 to wrest the state from the CDU and form a coalition with the FDP. On the second occasion he came very close to success.

He may find that a leading Bonn politician will be filling the gap he has left.

Perhaps it could be Egon Bahr, who now holds no major political office. This could be quite dangerous four CDU state government. But for the moment the crucial point is that Matthiesen too has turned on Schmidt. The days are not so long since past when Schmidt said that Matthiesen could be a healthy force in the leftish Schleswig-Holstein SPD.

Schmidt now has painful reason to rue these words of praise for his supposed protege.

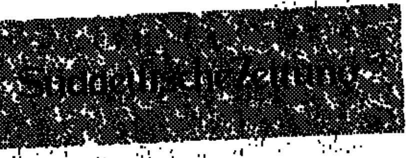
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 February 1981)

Wehner and Brandt clash over SPD style of leadership

The clash between SPD floor leader Herbert Wehner and party leader Willy Brandt over principles of party leadership is fiercer than anything the public have been treated to for a long time.

The really interesting point, though, is how this conflict can be amicably solved. The thinly disguised implication is that the way Willy Brandt is leading the party is increasing the likelihood of a split.

And a split is something Social Democrats regard as more than just an organisational matter.



Apart from personal differences between Brandt and Wehner, the issue here is two differing concepts of the historical role and purpose of the Social Democratic Party.

Wehner puts the SPD's ability to act as a government party above all other considerations. All this political activity in Bonn has been subordinated to achieving this goal. As a result, many other aspects of party life have to take second place. New subjects, controversial discussions and integrative openness all take a poor second place behind the demand that the SPD must remain capable of governing.

Many Social Democrats ask whether the ability to govern does not thus become an end in itself, an end which could destroy its own preconditions.

The question is whether Willy Brandt is really shaping the discussion in the SPD or merely allowing it a free rein. Perhaps Wehner's criticisms are aimed merely at forcing Brandt to step in and take matters in hand.

However, the means Wehner has chosen are so draconian that it is impossible not to read more wide-ranging implications into them.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 February 1981)

■ TALKING POINTS

Werner Maser debunks once and for all the legend of Hitler the great *Führer*

Students of Adolf Hitler's character and behaviour know he was a man of many contradictions. Often he would act suddenly and impulsively, only to lapse into periods of sullenness and withdrawal, interrupted by occasional discourses on future aims and "irreversible decisions."

In public his image was very different. He would stand for hours on end in uniform and jackboots, his right arm outstretched, as Wehrmacht units and Nazi party formations marched past — an astonishing feat of physical endurance.

All this made Hitler seem highly enigmatic. Werner Maser, author of *Adolf Hitler – The End of the Führer Legend*, now claims to have solved the riddle. It is an extremely confident claim, but Maser is not a man to make claims he cannot back up.

He has already established a reputation both in the academic world and among the general reading public for books on Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, the early history of the Nazi party, a documentary study of Hitler and a remorseless analysis of the Nuremberg trials.

All this work could be regarded as the necessary preliminaries for a major study of the man himself, his personality and his style of leadership.

This is more than just yet another book about Hitler. It is a kind of X-ray picture of the whole phenomenon.

Maser turns the normal chronological order upside down and makes this book begin with Hitler as Führer, Reichskanzler and Supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht, as he was from 1933 to 1945.

Part II of the book analyses Hitler's youth and earlier career. So did Hitler change after coming to power in 1933? Maser says that he did not.

He quotes a diary entry by Goebbels in 1945 complaining that the Führer seemed to be living with his head in the clouds. To which Maser adds the comment that Hitler had always had his head in the clouds.

Werner Maser: *Adolf Hitler. Das Ende der Führer-Legende.* Econ Verlag, Düsseldorf/Vienna, 448 pages, DM 38.

How could a man such as Hitler, who hated regular working hours, become a myth in his own lifetime for the German nation?

Hitler saw himself at first as the instrument for achieving national rebirth and greatness. His gifts as a speaker were phenomenal, his persuasiveness diabolical, his propaganda extremely subtle.

He called himself Führer and his closest colleagues, headed by Goebbels, forced him increasingly into this role. And, of course, he was operating in a vacuum.

The traditional pillars of German society had been completely disorientated since 1918. The huge army of unemployed were on the verge of despair. Hitler did not meet anyone who was a match for him until the war, not even in the party.

The solution for the party was not a nebulous form of National Socialism, an ideology which was never really worked out. Adolf Hitler was the Nazi party programme.

He was a visionary, a prophet, a man capable of imbuing the masses with a new faith. But was he also a great statesman or a great military commander?

Not at all, Maser shows, using case studies in certain areas to explain Hitler's style of leadership. He shows that there was no consistent line in Hitler's policies, that he feared responsibility.

Hitler was not interested in reforming the Weimar constitution. He abolished the basic rights which it guaranteed but left the rest as a torso.

Reform of the Reich was equally eclectic and incomplete. The Reich Cabinet was never a unit, merely the sum of the Ministries.

And individual Ministers often found it difficult to get Hitler to sign legislation they had drafted, such was his fear of responsibility.

Hitler was a man of sudden visions, not a decisive, coolly planning statesman such as soldiers admire. His secret was his unpredictability.

Maser quotes two instances of state criminality, the enthanasia programme and the final solution of the Jewish problem, in which Hitler gave the orders but left their execution to others.

It was as if he was shoving the responsibility away from him on[illegible] body else. The Führer did not [illegible] hear about the details.

Maser shows that this style of [illegible] ship made the issuing of written [illegible] for the final solution an impossib[illegible]

The decision to eliminate all Je[illegible] German-occupied countries came [illegible] secret conversation with He[illegible] Himmler, SS Reichsführer.

With strict instructions to [illegible] Himmler was assigned the task of [illegible] ing out the final solution.

Hitler thereby so to speak wash[illegible] hands of the horror of the act. He [illegible] ed to hear no more about it.

But he knew perfectly well w[illegible] was doing, as his answer to Field [illegible] al Keitel proves. Keitel had [illegible] about rumours about the murd[illegible] Jews.

Hitler told him his had nothing [illegible] with the Wehrmacht and he di[illegible] want to involve it in the matter [illegible] vealing admission!

The idea that Hitler was for [illegible] time completely ignorant of the fi[illegible] lution is naive. Himmler would [illegible] have dreamt at that time, Nov[illegible] 1941, of starting such a major [illegible] without the Führer's knowledge.

Maser paints a picture of a ma[illegible] had dreamt of being a Bohemian [illegible] who had always hated regular wo[illegible] was therefore incapable of gov[illegible] properly.

Historical circumstances and an [illegible] which the former ruling elite wa[illegible] rientated, brought him to the t[illegible] well, of course, as his remarkable [illegible] swaying the masses and influ[illegible] people.

Maser's approach and conclusi[illegible] new and persuasive. His book w[illegible] controversy, especially among th[illegible] have attempted to whitewash H[illegible] Such people do exist! *Walter Gö[illegible]*

(Die Welt, 7 Februar[illegible])

Facts speak for themselves on the German Question

Karin Schmid's book on legal aspects of the German Question, the fruit of many years teaching the subject, is aimed primarily at teachers in the sixth forms of grammar schools.

Frau Schmid presents no theories of her own, restricting herself to describing the theory and practice of intra-German politics since 1945.

More than half the book consists of exhaustive documentation, in which all major statements on the subject are included. This is supplemented by a bibliography.

Frau Schmid makes the extraordinarily complex problem of the German Question more accessible by giving a summary of the relation of this question to international law.

The difficult subject of Berlin and the former Eastern territories of the German Reich is dealt with only marginally.

Frau Schmid, quite correctly, points out the need for detailed separate studies of these questions, which go beyond her work's frame of reference.

Her analysis sticks to a number of separate aspects: the legal status of the border between the two German states, the unity of the nation, questions of nationality, the continued existence of the German Reich as a retrospective legal entity and the resultant questions of reparations and of partnership in treaties.

In her analysis, Frau Schmid always attempts to show the relevance of these abstract legal theories.

She defends the West German theory that the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic are both parts of the German Reich, which did not lapse in 1945 but continued to exist, though not as a legal entity capable of action.

The definition of this German Reich and its borders is dependent on numerous subjective factors, as Federal Constitutional Court decisions have shown.

Opponents of the new Ostpolitik hold the view that the Federal Republic of Germany is identical with the German Reich, which continues to exist as a legal entity.

The East Germans have a completely different theory, which says that the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic are two completely different states on the territory of the German Reich, which ceased to exist in 1945.

The Western Allies continue to claim responsibility for Germany as a whole. This should not be a merely verbal claim but should be combined with practical action.

These together form the present legal situation on which the government of the Federal Republic of Germany can base its actions.

It is difficult to understand the cursory treatment given to the Deutschlandbrief in the book. It is reproducted in the documentary section but only mentioned in connection with the Moscow Treaty.

The Deutschlandbrief stresses Allied responsibility for all Germany and restricts the validity of the treaties to resultant actions by the Federal Republic of Germany.

On page 23 of her book, Frau Schmid writes, erroneously, of the unconditional surrender of the German Reich.

In fact, it was the Wehrmacht that capitulated. The Reich government was in prison in Flensburg at the time and thus could not surrender.

On page 13 there is a reference to the National Socialist constitutional system. In fact, Hitler never expressly rescinded the constitution of the Weimar Republic.

Karin Schmid: *Die deutsche Frage im Staats- und Völkerrecht.* Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, 1980, 240 pages, DM19.80.

It remained valid, *de jure* at least, even though the constitutional reality of the Third Reich, based on the Empowering Act, effectively suspended the Weimar Constitution.

The book is a useful compendium for all who are concerned, in study or in practice, with intra-German policies.

Volkmar Kellermann

(Das Parlament, 7 February 1981)

TV documenta[illegible] on Germans' own holocaus[illegible]

A three-part series on the exp[illegible] of Germans from Eastern Euro[illegible] the end of the Second World W[illegible] watched by between six and nin[illegible] lion people in West Germany rec[illegible]

It aroused strong emotions, espe[illegible] among those who were forced to [illegible] their homes in East Europe.

Many reviewers pointed out th[illegible] programme did not stress adeq[illegible] that the expulsion of Germans wa[illegible] in part retaliation for crimes [illegible] Germans had committed.

Producer Jost von Mort said [illegible] many previous documentaries had [illegible] with this aspect of the problem.

A young woman on the panel [illegible] cised the way the subject was deal[illegible] in the East Bloc press, at which p[illegible] scientist H.A. Jacobsen told her s[illegible] not contributing to reconciliation [illegible] the peoples of East Europe.

The argument that this reconci[illegible] has already taken place is true but [illegible] not take account of the fears which [illegible] exist.

A sixth former said that the [illegible] gramme would have been a great [illegible] if it had helped the younger gene[illegible] to understand its parents better [illegible] it had stimulated teachers to pres[illegible] subject in its wider historical con[illegible]

(Frankfurter Allgeme[illegible] für Deutschland, 12 Febru[illegible])

HOME AFFAIRS

Asylum law amendment makes mockery of constitutional right, judges warn

Second-rate legal safeguards for applicants for political asylum are planned by the West German authorities, administrative court judges claim.

They should know. They are the judges who handle asylum applications and they are critical of the draft further amendment of asylum procedures on which the *Länder* agreed at the end of last year in the Bonn Bundesrat.

Constitutional lawyers are critical of the proposed changes too, coming so soon after sweeping amendments to the previous practice barely six months ago.

"Second-class safeguards" seems at first glance to be an exaggerated allegation, but on closer scrutiny it might well be rated not sweeping enough.

Last summer the Bundestag passed a second Asylum Procedure Amendment Act. The aim was to accelerate the processing of asylum applications, and this it would appear to have done.

Since mid-1980 the number of applicants for asylum has declined rapidly, probably because visas were made obligatory for people from most of the countries from which applicants hailed and because asylum applicants were refused work permits for the first year of their stay in Germany.

Camps were set up to house them in several *Länder*, which may well also have stemmed the tide. Certainly, most aliens police departments say the situation *has now* considerably improved.

So why should there be a further inroad into asylum procedure, a sector which, as the judges themselves put it, is so relevant to human destinies?

Admittedly, the marked influx of asylum applicants gave rise to considerable social and financial problems in many parts of the country.

But the influx has now largely subsided and many applicants, especially Turks, have returned to their countries of origin. It is hard to see why there is any need for urgent action right now.

Why make hasty inroads into such a sensitive aspect of fundamental rights? Why not wait and see how last summer's changes work out? They are, after all, starting to work.

The amendments newly planned give rise for misgivings on at least three points:

- Local authorities are to hold special, high-speed proceedings to make short shrift of applications that are "obviously unwarranted or a breach of the law."
- The right of appeal is no longer to be automatic; it will only apply if allowed in the first court ruling.
- At the first hearing sentence is to be passed by a single judge rather than a panel.

The last two points would be an unprecedented inroad into the system of administrative court practice over the past decades.

Arguably, of course, single judges may be the shape of things to come in administrative juridisdiction much as they already are in civil proceedings, but the panel system has nonetheless proved most satisfactory.

Scepticism is, however, justified when plans are drawn up to depart from the current and established practice in cases of political asylum in particular.

In practice, applicants for asylum have difficulty in making themselves understood, especially as they are confronted by a totally alien social and legal system.

In many cases criteria that count in their favour only come to light as the proceedings take their course, administrative court judges say.

Facts mentioned to lawyers and aliens departments often turn out to be more or less coincidental pieces in a mosaic that may not be put together until the appeal is heard.

The problem with the accelerated proceedings now proposed is that applicants with neither clearly political motives nor the ability to explain their reasons may be unfairly ruled out.

The Bundesrat envisages, for instance, that a single civil servant will be entitled to decide whether or not an application is in breach of the law.

His decision may be upheld or quashed by a single judge who, moreover, has the right to rule that an appeal to a higher court is impermissible.

This is all to take place without a background of reliable administrative investigation of the applicant's motives as still prevails at the central refugees department in Zirndorf, near Nuremberg.

MPs will have to decide whether such swift and drastic proceedings are warranted as a means of deciding a refugee's fate merely to put paid to an abuse of the old regulations that has been increasingly infrequent in recent months.

Apart from Hesse, every *Land* supreme administrative court in the country has so far ruled that aliens departments ought not to be entitled to rule out applicants as pointless before their cases have been heard.

They soundly argue that this would be a clear breach of Article 16 of Basic Law, which guarantees unlimited safeguards for victims of political persecution.

In view of this basic right there can be no question of preliminary proceedings to rule on whether or not the refugee is entitled to claim the right or not.

A similar practice with conscientious objectors to military service (and comparison is valid to some extent because individual motives require consideration in both cases) would stand no chance of serious discussion by the Bundestag, let alone of being approved by MPs.

The Bundesrat and the Bundestag are running a grave risk of denying bona fide political refugees the right to asylum, and that at a time when the Federal Constitutional Court has just emphasised the significance of this particular right!

The inroads already made are open to criticism. Further inroads into asylum procedures could easily make a fundamental constitutional right an empty shell.

Reinhard Wolff

(Vorwärts, 12 February 1981)

Phones are easy to tap, says Bundespost engineer

None of West Germany's 28 million telephone subscribers can be completely sure their phone is not being bugged. The unwanted listener may be coincidence, a skilled private operator or even an official authorised to tap his phone.

All you can be sure of, says Jürgen Krause of the Bundespost's central telecom department in Darmstadt, is that you will never hear that telltale click. There is no way of telling.

Interest in the subject has recurred after a case in which calls between West Berlin and West Germany were bugged, tapes being made, for instance, of calls by Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Even after examining the tape cassette containing the recording of the confidential conversation of the Chancellor's, the Darmstadt expert says that in principle the call could have been bugged anywhere along the line.

He does not even rule out the possibility of the conversation having been recorded directly from one or other of the two telephones, then overlaid with interference as a red herring.

The telecom network is a combined system consisting of underground cables and radio links that establishes a countrywide counterpart to the autobahn network, as it were.

Calls are automatically routed along the shortest available line. If there is a holdup anywhere along the line it will be redirected in much the same way as a traffic diversion.

Radio links as a rule require relay stations every 25km or so, but there are no booster stations in the GDR between West Berlin and the three transceivers in Lower Saxony at Torfhaus, Clenze and Gartow.

The Bundespost covers the 150km by transmitting in the long-wave megahertz range from the old transmitter at Wannsee, West Berlin, and in the gigahertz range from a new tower 300 metres tall in the north of the city.

The megahertz range, a little above TV frequencies, is not only easy to tap than higher frequencies; Berliners may even inadventently tune in to telephone calls as they are being transmitted by switching on their TV sets.

The risks of telephones being tapped apply in principle to teleprinter links and links between computer and data banks. "You can no longer distinguish between the networks," Herr Krause says.

The easiest calls to bug are calls from car telephones, but tuning in to radio transmissions is much more complicated than simply bugging or miking within listening distance of the telephone handset.

Main underground cables, including those that pass through the GDR, are clad in a compressed air pipeline. Any attempt to interfere would result in a fall in pressure that would trigger the alarm.

Switchgear, another point where bugging is a likely prospect, is also equipped with alarm devices.

When tapping is authorised by the police or intelligence service, the officials who monitor calls do so at telephone exchanges.

They are only allowed to do so after producing a court order, It is, says Herr Krause, pretty much like a search warrant.

Harald Kallwoda/dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 2 February 1981)

A new DM19m training college for counter-espionage officers of the [illegible]fassungsschutz, or Office for the Pro[illegible]tion of the Constitution, has been [illegible]lt in Heimerzheim, near Bonn.

The board of governors, consisting of [illegible]esentatives of the intelligence ser[illegible]'s head office in Cologne and its or[illegible]isations in the individual *Länder*, met [illegible] the first time in Cologne on 10 Febr[illegible]ry.

[illegible]s most important immediate task will [illegible] to draw up the curriculum for the [illegible]ge, which has been planned since [illegible]5, delays coming in for trenchant [illegible]icism by the appropriate section of [illegible]V, the public service and transport [illegible]kers union.

To make mistakes is only human, the [illegible]on argues, but errors could be reduced in number if only qualified training [illegible] further training facilities were provided.

Staff college for spy catchers

So far the *Verfassungsschutz* headquarters have run a small staff college in Cologne, but small is the word; only every other officer recommended for a course by his local authority has been able to attend one.

In connection with mistakes that have been made there occasionally have been doubts whether counter-espionage officers are properly trained.

Specialists have had to be seconded from the *Bundesnachrichtendienst* in Munich, the country's intelligence service abroad, to carry out *Verfassungsschutz* bugging operations.

At times *Verfassungsschutz* officers have worn such ill-advised clothing that their identity has been self-evident, Last year they came in for criticism for having let slip terrorist suspects Christian Klar and Adelheid Schulz.

The new staff college will be able to run simultaneously seven special courses in counter-espionage, intelligence gathering and evaluation and technical aids.

The building is fitted out with strict security precautions but its capacity, 1,000 students a year, is still too small. Because of the expense the Bonn and *Land* governments were unable to agree on anything larger.

During courses, students are accommodated in special quarters in the grounds of the college.

Horst Zimmermann

(Bremer Nachrichten, 11 February 1981)

AGRICULTURE

Ministry report forecasts 12-per-cent decline in farm earnings this year

Though the EEC has pumped billions of deutschemarks into guaranteeing minimum prices for farm produce, farmers' income is expected to drop by about 12 per cent in the 1980/81 financial year.

The 1981 Agriculture Report shows that in the 1979/80 financial year farmers' income dropped 2 per cent, with farmers in South Germany performing slightly better than their colleagues in the north.

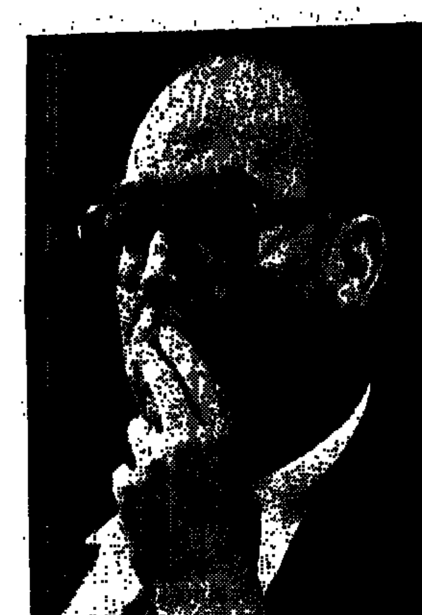
In 1979/80, farmers' income per working member of the family dropped 1.9 per cent.

Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl told journalists in Bonn that the main reason for this was the steep rise in energy prices. Farmers had to spend more on energy but could not push up sales enough to compensate for the extra expense.

The slowdown in the restructuring process — the number of farms dropped by 1.5 per cent only — also acted as a brake on average income.

Average production value per product rose by about 4.6 per cent, with considerable fluctuation from one product to another. However, investment outlay and depreciations exceeded this.

Though average annual income per farm worker dropped to DM 24,304 in 1980, income statistics for the past 10 years show that average income in this



Josef Ertl (Photo: Sven Simon)

period has increased by seven per cent annually.

There were considerable discrepancies between farmers' income depending on factors such as farm size and region.

In Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria profits per farm worker rose by 8.5 and 1.3 per cent respectively, whereas the figures for Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein were declines of of 16.6 and 12 per cent respectively.

This helped reduce considerably the income gap between North and South. The sharp income drop in the north was caused mainly by the poor harvest there.

As for kinds of farms and specialisation, refiners' profits shot up by 12.2 per cent per worker.

Fruit farms' income dropped an average of 4.8 per cent because of fairly poor harvests and higher costs but they still make the highest profits in absolute terms.

Though the North-South gap in farmers' incomes was reduced, the so-called intra-agricultural income disparity increased.

The 25 per cent of farms with the highest profits per family member had over seven times the income of the 25 per cent of farms with the lowest profit per family member.

Developments on farms where farmers had other jobs were the same as those on "full-time" farms.

Profits per family dropped by an average of 1.9 per cent per family member compared with the preceding year.

Extra-agricultural income also dropped, so that total income dropped by 2.3 per cent to DM 21,740 per family.

The income of farms run as a second occupation were more influenced by outside factors. They increased average overall income by 5.3 per cent to DM 32,366 per family, with DM 3,185 of this coming from agriculture.

The average increase in non-agricultural income here was 5.6 per cent, as against an increase of only 1.1 per cent in agricultural earnings.

In larger "second occupation" farms, overall income was even higher than that for comparable full-time farms.

Agriculture Ministry experts have conjured up unmitigatedly gloomy predictions for this year.

They reckon neither price nor bulk rises nor appreciable productivity increases are going to come anywhere near even compensating for the sharply accelerating rises in costs.

The Ministry gloom-mongers predict that incomes will drop 12 per cent this year.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 February 1981)

Costly CAP still leaves farmers out of pocket

Josef Ertl's Agriculture Report bodes ill. After severe losses in the last economic year, it looks as if farmers are going to have to face further setbacks this year.

Despite the high degree of technological sophistication in modern farming, the farmers realise full well that their harvests and therefore their income are still dependent on wind and weather.

The losses in real income over the past year put the farmers in a special and unenviable position compared with wage and salary earners.

In the period covered by the report, about 12,000 farmers quitted farming altogether and went looking for other forms of work.

It is reasonable to assume that even more would have left farming for good if the overall employment situation had not been so bleak. This meant that many were simply forced to continue.

The drop in farmers' income has hit producers and sellers of agricultural equipment and machinery badly. Their customers have no choice but to reduce investment drastically.

As a result, many such companies have gone bust or put their workers on short time. Normal production levels are the exception rather than the rule.

In view of this situation, the EEC Commission and the Ministers of Agriculture will find it difficult to resist farmers' demands for higher guaranteed market prices.

The farmers are just not going to accept, as they did two years ago, rises of a mere two or three per cent.

In the past, food prices have tended to keep general price levels down so that consumers ought to show some sympathy for farmer's demands in this situation.

The present EEC Common Agricultural Policy does not come out of the report with flying colours.

A system that constantly calls for higher subsidies but cannot give farmers the basic financial security they need is not fit to survive. *Rainer Diermann*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 5 February 1981)

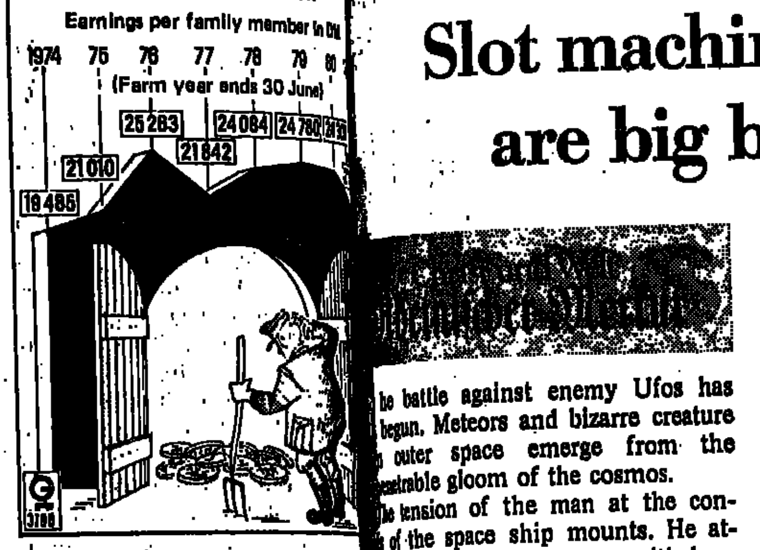
Agriculture backed by EEC farm price guarantees

Common Market CAP provides for:

Price and sales guarantees for:	Safeguards if prices slump:	Import levies only on:
Milk 13.5	Pork 10.1	Flowers & plants 3.2
Foodgrain 5.8	Beef & veal 9.8	Eggs 2.1
Sugar 1.6	Fruit & veg. 2.0	Potatoes 0.9
	Wine 1.4	Poultry 0.9
	Misc. 0.3	Misc. 0.9
40%	45%	15%

1978/79 turnover of German farmers in DMbn

Percentage of total turnover



The farming year ending this June does not hold forth much hope of cheer. The Bonn Agriculture Ministry expects earnings to decline by 12 per cent on average, due mainly to spiralling costs. Farmers who quit the land used to ease the pressure, but not at present, as employment prospects elsewhere are bleak. But ups and downs have always been part of life down on the farm.

Strikes are not the solution

There is no doubt that last year was a bad year for German farmers ... this year looks like being even worse.

According to the Agriculture Report for 1981, the farmers will be in the front line of those hit by the ... overall economic situation caused ... rily by higher energy prices.

But, as Agriculture Minister Josef ... has rightly pointed out, these developments must be seen in the long ... especially in the agriculture industry.

This has always been true in ... but man is a creature who tends to ... the good for granted and to break into cries of woe and alack when ... times come.

Over the past 10 years, farmers' income has risen by an average of ... per cent a year, which goes to show ... the general trend is positive and ... than makes up for occasional setbacks.

The German National Farmers ... sees things differently and has pro... a different set of statistics, starting ... 1975. This is beside the point.

The Agriculture Report shows ... one farmer's family with a farm of between 30 and 50 hectares earned an average of DM 35,333, on which it paid income tax of a mere DM 716.

This puts the drop in farmers' income into perspective, though it does ... solve the present problem.

The National Farmers Union is ... ing nationwide strikes this week in support of demands for higher ... prices, an increase in tax-free ... and reductions in other financial burdens.

This can hardly be the answer ... fault, when the causes are not the ... all economy or the energy situation ... with the Common Agricultural Policy.

This policy is urgently in need of reform. Otherwise it is, in the long ... short run, going to completely ... den the European taxpayer. Yet ... not necessarily even benefit the ... proportionately, as the present ... underlines. *Gerhard ...*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 5 February ...)

TRADE FAIRS

Slot machines galore are big business

The battle against enemy Ufos has begun. Meteors and bizarre creature ... outer space emerge from the ...trable gloom of the cosmos.

The tension of the man at the con... of the space ship mounts. He at... annihilating the enemy with laser ... He has made it, now he can pen... further into the cosmos.

Just to be on the safe side, he puts a ... of energy around his space ship, to ...tect it from the attacks of Ufos and ...teorites.

Space-Trek is the name of this mon... new TV game, which, it is hoped, ... rake in the cash for manufacturers ... gaming hall owners.

Conservative estimates tell us that ... are now over 80,000 juke boxes, ...000 gaming machines in which money can be (but rarely is) won and 200,000 other slot-machine games: flippers, billiards and table football.

They are to be found in pubs, leisure centres, gaming halls, railway stations and airports.

"One can justifiably assume that the number of these automatic games rose by 10 per cent last year, with the latest and most modern generation of games, TV games and video-recorders, accounting for most of this increase.

"These electronic games have made a triumphal march through Europe having previously taken the United States and Japan by storm," says Ullrich Schulze, director of Löwen-Automaten.

Take the example of the Puckman, a charming game in which a little man is chased around a labyrinth by ghosts and is finally eaten by them.

However, the player can turn the tables and make Puckman chase the ghosts by giving him one of a maximum of four power pills.

But those darned ghosts don't give up — even after they have been eaten! Their eyes roll irresistibly back to the cage, spawning new ghosts who start chasing the hapless Puckman all over again. Finally, the four ghosts corner and finish off Puckman, whose power pills have by then run out. The Puckman is the brain-child of the medium-sized German automatic games manufacturers and operators, who have joined forces in the Central Organisation of Automatic Games Entrepreneurs. This organisation has over 3,000 members.

A game of skill at the pintable (Photo: Archiv)

The demand for and interest in these games has risen meteorically in recent years. Statistics show that the average gaming machine entrepreneur has 160 machines in 60 places within a radius of 65km of his home.

The industry employs about 10,000 technical and sales personnel. Another 5,000 are employed in the production and sale of these machines.

Over 90 per cent of trade in games, music and entertainment machines is done by firms who are members of the German Automatic Machines Wholesale Association.

An association spokesman explains that "as our public wants constant changes, the pressure to innovate is great. Even the records in the juke boxes have to be changed very often to meet the demand for the latest hits.

"This accounts for 20 per cent of the annual single record turnover in West Germany. That is why juke boxes are so important for the entire record industry."

The amount invested in these machines is determined by the pressure to vary playing systems and the need to keep within hand-warming distance of the white heat of the technological revolution.

Slot machines so versatile, trade emphasises

Annual expenditure on new material to renew or extend the variety of machines including purchase of new records comes to almost DM500m. The industry's turnover last years was about DM400m.

While some automatic machine customers satisfy their urge to gamble, others use these machines to still hunger or thirst.

Whether it is morning coffee or cheese rolls, fizzy drinks or meatballs, the range of goods and services these machines provide is truly amazing.

Cigarette machines top the league here: more than fifty per cent of all cigarettes smoked in this country are bought from machines.

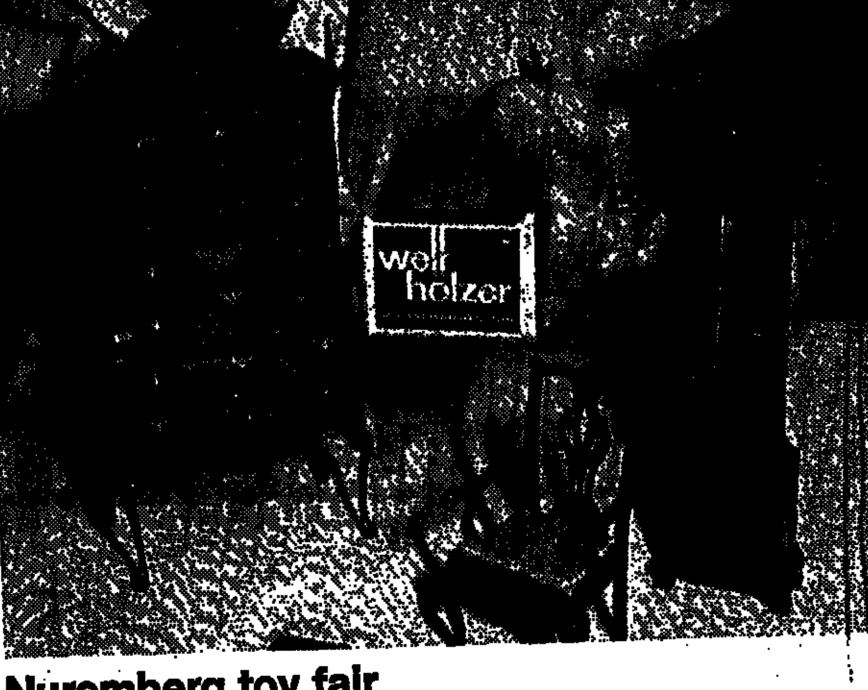
These machines with their wide range of foods and objects of everyday need are not only the extended arm of the retail trade, they are also indispensable in canteens and factories where they ensure that workers can get something to eat or drink at all times of the day or night.

Considering that almost DM12bn a year is inserted into these slot machines, it is understandable that the industry is increasingly turning its attention to the use of false coins and thefts from their "defenceless creatures."

False coins, theft and smash-and-grabs on cigarette machines alone caused at least DM24m of damage per year. And that is only the known figure. The real damage is probably far greater.

But not only coin-testing devices are being constantly developed. Developments in micro-electronics and the use of micro-processors mean machine operators can ensure the goods in the machine stay fresh and edible. Temperature gauges reduce the risk to customers to almost zero. *Lutz Dreesbach*

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 6 February 1981)



Nuremberg toy fair

Bought ready-made or in do-it-yourself kits, doll's house furniture, here seen at the annual Nuremberg toy fair, is invariably enchanting. In days gone by children wanted doll's houses to look just like the real thing, so they were a keen guide to furnishing styles of their day. Nowadays period furniture is all the rage, popular with children and parents alike. (Photo: dpa)

Musical instrument makers hold their own

The Frankfurt Music Fair opened recently with a host of international ..., impressing "even the market ex...ts."

... totals 680 companies from 27 ...tries exhibited at the six-day fair, ... more than last year. Products on ...play ranged from musical instruments ... accessories to music publications.

The Music Fair is not Frankfurt's big... but is, as Horst Link, a director of ... Frankfurt Messe and Ausstellungs-...bH stressed, "the decisive forum for ... international music industry in ...ch the points are set for the industry ...dwide."

The German musical instruments in...try only has a seven per cent share ... 600 m) in world musical instru... sales of about five billion dollars.

... Link pointed out that a major ... is in the offing here. For the ... time in years the growth rate of West ... exports (6.9 per cent) exceeded ...rts (4.8 per cent).

... and concert pianos made in ...many are very much in demand ...d. The value of exports here was ... million DM as against imports of ... 73.2 million DM (plus 1.2 per ...

... though they say profits are still ...tisfactory, musical instrument



makers, almost all small to medium-sized firms employing a combined payroll of 10,000, see no reason for pessimism.

On the contrary. Knut Grotrian-Steinweg, chairman of the German Piano Industry Association, says that they have now beaten off the Japanese export offensive which started in the mid-60s.

Although West German wage costs are among the highest in the world, the industry managed to maintain and even improve its situation in competition against huge concerns and state-owned companies in low wage countries.

They were able to do so because of their flexibility and the high quality of their goods.

Price rises in the industry were expected to be about 8 per cent but Grotrian-Steinweg was confident this would not hit export prospects. He added he was astonished at the advice given to other industries on how to cope with Japanese competition.

Even on the small instrument market, where home production rose by 23 per cent in 1978/79 and another 11 per cent in 1979/80, home sales now account for 33.6 per cent. Exports here amount to DM 150m as against imports of DM 289.8m.

All the major German music instrument makers, 235 in all, are of course represented in Frankfurt.

The performances by internationally renowned musicians reflected what Alfred K. Schnorr, managing director of the Messe GmbH, said was an "audible trend" — to play down the dissonances of the recession by active music-making.

The fair also made a significant break with tradition, admitting the general public on the last day.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 February 1981)

RESEARCH

German Antarctic exploration gains momentum as base camp is built

Two years ago, on 5 February 1979, Bonn signed the international Antarctic agreement and joined, after years of hesitation, the club of 19 countries engaged in South Pole research.

Germany has since emerged as a scientific great power of the Antarctic. There has been a boom in research south of the 60th parallel.

It has been as though the Germans wanted to make good all the opportunities missed in 40 years of Antarctic abstinence.

Ambitious plans and substantial investment have characterised the euphoria of this fresh start to German Antarctic research.

The scientific monthly *Umschau in Wissenschaft und Technik* reckons more than 200 scientists and technicians from the Federal Republic of Germany are working down south this Antarctic summer (from December to March).

Last (European) summer Bonn also gave the go-ahead for the German Antarctic research programme and commissioned the largest and most expensive German research vessel yet, a DM165m icebreaker.

What is the point of this run on the South Pole? Scientists are initially concerned with readings and measurements and with unearthing fresh scientific knowledge.

Two of the five German research ves-



sels currently plying Antarctic waters are busy for the most part keeping track of the krill, a protein-rich Antarctic shrimp.

The other three are helping to set up the first permanent German research base on the Antarctic ice, named after polar research scientist Alfred Wegener, the inventor of the continental drift theory.

What are the politicians up to, investing millions in Antarctic research in a matter of years? Initially they were attracted by the krill, a promising untapped source of edible protein.

In the late 70s the first two German Antarctic expeditions brought back encouraging reports about this promising food supply, once the staple diet of the whale.

Krill shoals in Antarctic waters were reportedly so enormous that world fishing catches could, it was said, easily be doubled without seriously depleting krill stocks.

Access to this last untapped reserve of edible protein seemed to be in the offing for the German fishing industry at a time when its traditional fishing grounds were continually being reduced by territorial waters and economic zones.

A year ago, however, it was learnt with regret that krill contains so much fluorine that it could prove a health hazard if eaten in large quantities.

But there was a further motive behind the resumption of German Antarctic research, the prospect of raw material deposits beneath the polar ice.

With US assistance German geologists toured the continent checking stone formations where they protruded from the ice cap and prospecting for valuable ores such as nickel or uranium.

Deposits that look like proving an economic proposition have yet to be found, but scientists are convinced the Antarctic boasts valuable commodity reserves.

There are limits to their optimism, however, inasmuch as 95 per cent of the Antarctic land-mass is buried under an ice cap up to three miles thick.

This ice is slowly moving towards the coast but remains an impenetrable obstacle to commercial mining.

In subsidising Antarctic research the Bonn government's main objective has been to gain membership of the exclusive club of 13 countries.

By the terms of the Antarctic treaty these 13 are to jointly decide the future of what is the world's fourth-largest continent.

The Antarctic is a land-mass of 14 million square kilometres, which makes it as large as Europe and the Indian subcontinent combined.

As yet it is strictly reserved for research scientists, but Bonn feels it is well worth while having a foot in the door in view of treaty changes due in 1991.

From then on commercial exploitation of the Antarctic will probably be permitted, and Germany wants to have a say from the start in the arrangements that are made.

To qualify for membership of the club Bonn has to engage in substantial Antarctic research, which accounts for the many projects included in the new Antarctic research programme.

More than 70 German projects are to be undertaken in the next few years, either from the permanent research base, from on board the new research vessel, which is due for completion next year, or from bases run by other countries.

They include work on how biological organisms adapt to extremes of climate, such as weather as dry as the Sahara and temperatures as low as -88° C.

There are plans to conduct an exact survey of the continent, to study its geological past and present and to probe the force and movement of shelf ice.

Environmental conservation readings are likewise envisaged. They include taking high-altitude atmospheric measurements, given that the air is nowhere purer than in the Antarctic.

The Antarctic is also to be probed as an influence on weather further north and scheduled to yield information needed for building ice-going ships.

In view of the political objectives that made all this scientific investment feasible Antarctic research could easily degenerate into an alibi for power politics.

As yet, however, independent basic research still stands a chance of prevailing. Take, for instance, the work of Ludolf Schultz, a scientist from Mainz.

He and US colleagues are currently scouring the Antarctic ice for meteorites. Nowhere else in the world can these messengers from outer space be more easily found, Professor Schultz writes in the scientific magazine mentioned earlier.

Stones are few and far between in the Antarctic ice, and when they do occur they are usually meteorites and in an excellent state of preservation due to the cold, dry climate.

As a result scientists can learn much more from them about the make-up of extraterrestrial matter than from meteorites found in more temperate parts of the world.

Some 5,700 of the 8,000 meteorites known to exist hail from the Antarctic. In the United States they are given as close an examination as the samples of lunar rock brought back by the Apollo astronauts.

Franz Tessensohn, a geologist who works for the Federal Geological Sciences and Raw Materials Research Institute, Hanover, outlines a further opportunity presented by Antarctic research.

He headed the Ganovex expedition, short for German North Victoria Land Expedition, a bid last year to delve into the continent's past.

About 200 million years ago the Antarctic was in the middle of Gondwanaland, the original continent. Soth America, Africa, Australia and the Indian subcontinent later broke off Gondwanaland and drifted into their present position, or so the theory goes.

But the expedition geologists found no trace of a geological formation that ought, if the theory is correct, to extend from Australia to the Antarctic.

At the very least, Tessensohn says, scientists will now have to reconsider whether Australia really once was where they had assumed it to have been all those years ago.

The Ganovex expedition returned with further important findings on the precursor of the Pacific. Scientists, he explains, have long wondered what used to be where the Pacific is now, given that the Pacific is a relatively recent ocean.

Basically, was it a primitive continent or a primitive ocean? The expedition returned with evidence that in the dim and distant past there was a sea at least 500km wide and 2,000km long, an ancestor of the Pacific.

Ganovex also pioneered an expedition technique, that of working mainly from on board the ship, the *Schepelsturm*, and setting up only provisional land camps. They used helicopters to fly up to 300km inland, making substantial savings in comparison with expeditions using a permanent base camp of the conventional variety. This method also holds forth the prospect of taking a closer look at many coastal sections of the Antarctic that have hitherto been marked white on the map as far as scientific research was concerned.

Given the boom-induced euphoria, it was inevitable that part of the German Antarctic research programme would prove a disappointment. Sad to say, difficulties have arisen in connection with the showpiece of the entire programme, the base camp that was to have been set up this Antarctic summer on the Filchner ice shelf.

First there was disagreement on the best location for the base. Many scientists said they would sooner work from on board the research vessel than from a camp site so inconveniently situated.

Geologists, for instance, would have had to fly at least 500km to the nearest rock formations.

As it happens, nature has put paid to both plans and squabbles. The pack ice is so thick that the three German ships with their cargo of men and equipment have been unable to get through to the site envisaged.

So Bonn ruled that the camp was to be established 1,400km north-east in the Atka Bay, south of South Africa, instead.

The new site is 900km further away from the South Pole but geologists are much closer to their rock formations and biologists can observe marine life on their doorstep, as it were.

Ice research scientists, on the other hand, will probably be seriously inconvenienced. If they still want to carry out their Filchner ice shelf research programme they will have little choice but to set up a new camp.

This is an expensive undertaking and it will involve a fair share of danger.

The Antarctic weather is so unpredictable that even short distances can be fraught with danger, as members of the Ganovex team reported.

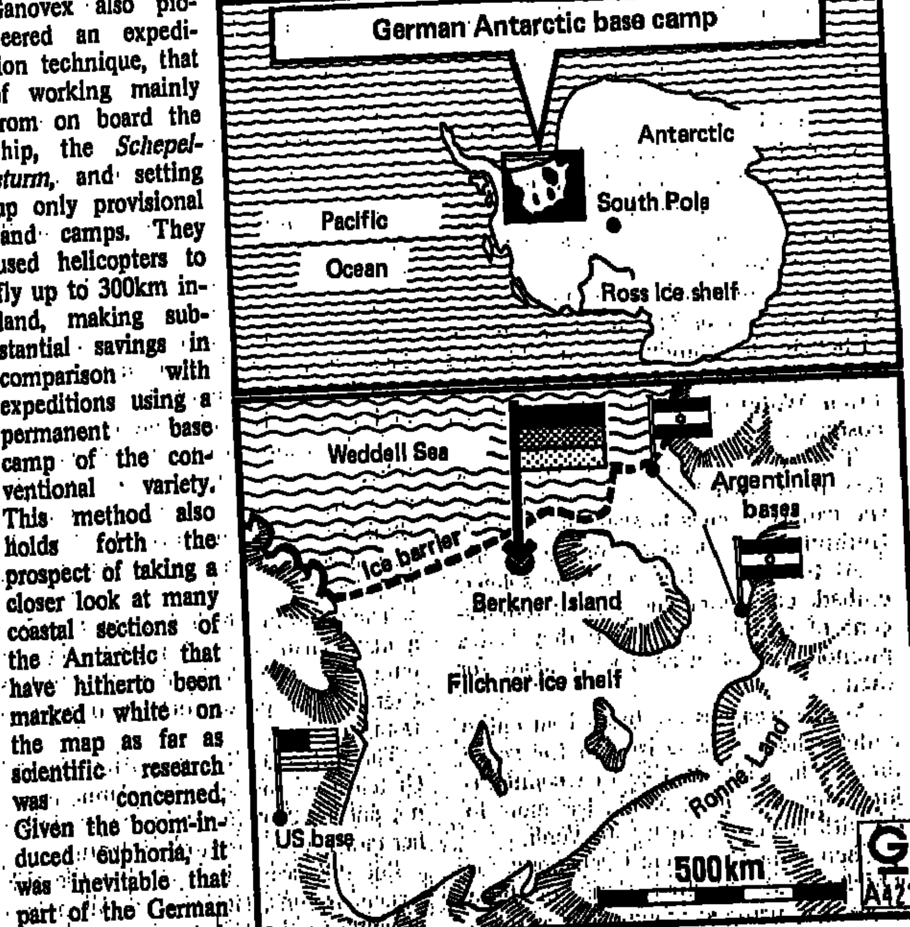
For four days, whilst a storm raged, they were forced to lie down and starve only a few yards away from comrades in a nearby tent who were also laid up but at least in a position to open emergency rations.

But they stayed where they were because any attempt to cross the few yards to the tent would have risked life and limb.

The storm had raged so fiercely that their kitchen tent with its crates and equipment had simply been blown away.

Reiner Korbmann/dpa

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 January 1981)



■ THE STAGE

Spellbinding new Aida

Seldom has director Hans Neuenfels made his characters delve so deeply into the subconscious as in his controversial Frankfurt version of Verdi's *Aida*.

Spectacularly, provocatively, the opera begins with Radames wielding a spade. He is evidently a student from a well-to-do family who has just woken up after a dream.

In his study he sets about digging up the parquet flooring, only to strike sand — as expected and in keeping with the Frankfurt *Sponti* slogan *Unter dem Pflaster liegt der Strand* (There is sand right under the pavement).

In the sand he promptly unearths a sword and a bust that prompts him to start singing *Celeste Aida*.

It is a controversial opening to the opera that has nothing in common with conventional versions of *Aida* yet much more to do with the work than vociferous protest from the ranks of the first-nighters might lead one to believe.

Neuenfels' *Aida* has much in common with his previous operas, Verdi's *Trovatore* and *Macbeth*, Schreker's *Die Gezeichneten* and Busoni's *Doctor Faustus*.

He both illustrates the plot and conjures codes that give the lie, over and above the stage action, to the motives of the characters concerned and to Verdi's motives or the social ritual reflected in the work.

But Neuenfels would not be Neuenfels if a part were not played by his private obsessions, his dream images and visions of anger.

To do no more than register the superficially absurd but in fact alienated plot of the production is to emulate a literary critic whose view of a play on words is limited to a quest for grammatical errors.

Before departing from the framework plot Neuenfels demonstrates the inequality of the Amneris-Aida-Radames love triangle.

While Amneris appears in ladylike splendour wearing riding kit, Aida is clearly no more than a serving maid. The social gap between them is clearly apparent.

The King is no more than a senile figure. Priests obviously hold sway in Ancient Egypt, which Neuenfels sees as "desire, entreaty, longing, archaeology, a kind of existential endeavour and not just a backdrop."

The ceremony of fitting out the generals is typical of Neuenfels as director, although the simultaneity of different style elements may be attributed to Erich Wonder's sets and Nina Ritter's costumes.

The bitter comedy, however, is true Neuenfels. Red flowers are arranged in the barrels of guns to symbolise the untruthfulness of the slogan of a just war.

At the end of this scene the soldiers embark on jerking movements reminiscent of cripples, as though they had a premonition of what lay in store for them.

As the weapons are blessed an entire ballet school class arrives on the scene dressed in white to take first communion. This, one must admit, has more to do with Neuenfels than with Verdi.

Then comes the victory ceremony, for which most directors think of little more than using as many extras as possible wearing as much make-up as possible and dressed as colourfully as possible, with exotic animals always a welcome extra.


A scene from Neuenfels' Frankfurt *Aida* (Photo: Mara Eggert)

Instead, Neuenfels presents a fascinating combination of cynicism, compromise and parody.

The choir sits on stage, in evening dress in opera-house boxes, enjoying the show as a demonstration of power while a ballet group acts out the basic constellation in a *Hamlet*-like play within a play.

This basic situation is, of course, Radames torn between two women.

Then, in the triumphal march, a troupe of heroes dance round the stage in a manner reminiscent of Leni Riefenstahl's treatment of the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

First-nighters at the B premiere showed more restraint than at the A premiere, but by this stage at the latest their patience was exhausted.

Applause and catcalls were so loud that one could hardly hear the pathos of the opera, which was, perhaps, no great loss.

In the march-past of the prisoners Neuenfels then switches from parody to grim unmasking. The prisoners are savages who cannot even handle plastic cups, knives and forks.

The Egyptian public finds their expected inability to handle these symbols of civilisation patronisingly, greatly amusing. If you think this point is laboured, you really ought to take a closer look at German tourists in Africa.

The Nile Act takes places in an open room again, demonstrating the longings, the dream of wide-open spaces that Neuenfels associates with the image of Egypt.

This Third Act is performed in the most conventional manner, dispensing with exaggeration in order to show keener observation of the characters.

The way in which Aida, merely by handling Amneris' cloak and draping it round herself, demonstrates her longings and her fears is a miniature masterpiece.

As for Amonasro hiding in the wardrobe, is it that funny? Not as amusing as many of the audience seemed to think, surely, and more credible than the way in which he normally skulks behind the pillars.

The scene in which Amneris tries like a madwoman to set her world right is pure Neuenfels. So is more like Faust's Gretchen in prison than a despairing woman in love.

The difference between Amneris and Gretchen, of course, is that Amneris has not put her baby to death; she has killed her father, who has grown infantile.

But this scene is typical of the risk Neuenfels runs. He is so careful not to succumb to the imagery he creates and allow the mood to last that at times he exaggerates to the point of flippancy.

We see Egyptian priests transformed into Roman Catholic cardinals, which may be a valid point. But the scene deteriorates into silliness when the cardinals start ballet dancing.

Radames the digger after buried treasure only finds fulfilment in death. Together with Aida he dies of gas poisoning, giving rise to one question after another.

Has the sequence of images now drawn to a close? What do the codes mean, what do they reveal?

Works staged by Neuenfels, especially operas, are always more questionnaires than they are answer sheets. It makes them liable to attack but also lends fascination.

This riddle-like adaptation of the theatrical aspect is accompanied by a markedly transparent interpretation of the musical aspect of the opera.

Michael Gielen of the Frankfurt Opera conducted the score in a flowing yet accentuated manner, giving the lyrical features a fragile note that put paid to any allegations of *kitsch*.

The first night ended with the usual clash between protest and approval, the latter prevailing narrowly. "Poor Verdi!" one member of the audience yelled, "Poor Neuenfels! " another.

"Fortunate Frankfurt" one might well have added. This is not only the most spellbinding production of *Aida* for years but also a most imaginative, exciting operatic evening.

For some it may have gone against the grain but it is sure to be the subject of more discussion than most operatic performances.

Rainer Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 February 1981)

Czech Macbe[th] in Bonn

Performances of plays by Czech [dra]matist Pavel Kohout, [...] exiled in Vienna, were banned by [the] Czech authorities in the early 70s.

A number of Prague actors were [...]larly forbidden to work in their [...]. Faced with this career ban, K[ohout] began to adapt Macbeth.

His version of Shakespeare's [...] the usurper king was designed [...] performed by a handful of actors [in in]timate one-room theatres.

Kohout's *Play Macbeth* was st[aged in] a number of private apartments [in Pra]gue until these performances [...] banned.

The Bonn municipal theatre has [given] the play its first production in [West] Germany, in Wolfgang Swecz[...] translation, staging it on board a s[...] at its moorings on the Rhine.

The idea of converting the *Moby [Dick]* into an old-style Viennese or [...] coffee house theatre for the length [of] the Macbeth run was intended to [make] the play more attractive for the med[...]

Few properties are used, the [...] impression being that of an inti[mate] stage in the middle of a room in w[hich] the public eat and drink while they [...] in the show.

Shakespeare's history play has [...] actors and any number of walk-on p[arts]. In Bonn the action is handled by [...] actors who switch roles as required.

Kohout has distilled the action [to a] minimum, reducing it to a psych[...] of the addiction of a feudal cou[ple to] power and their careers.

His Macbeth, as staged in Bonn, [was] unquestionably intended to be a p[...] tion that was somewhat out of the [ordi]nary and off the beaten theatrical t[rack].

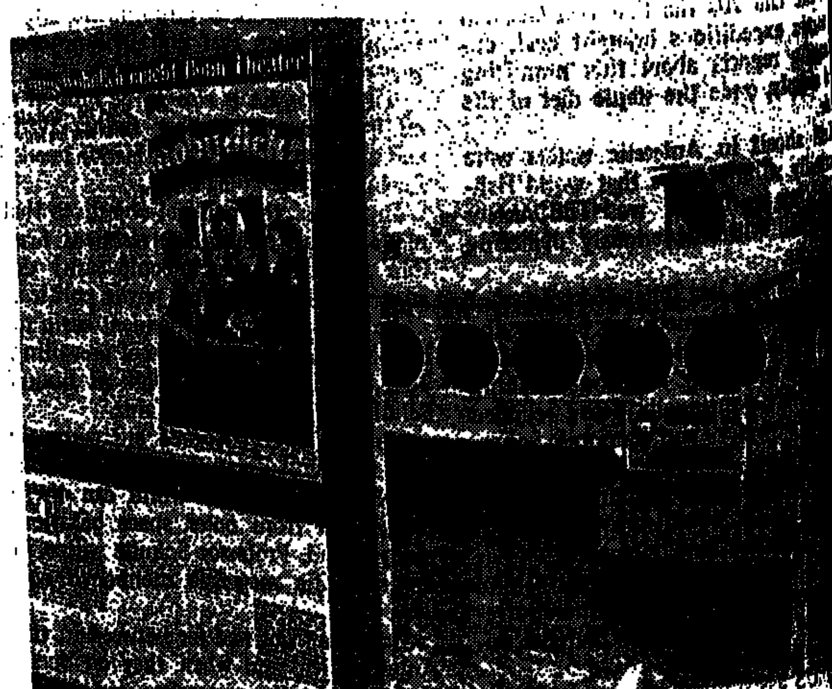
This intention was sadly forgotte[n in] the play as directed by Kohout's [...] German director Günter Pavel Fie[...]

The translation, by no means [over]whelming, was rendored on a s[...] stage in full-scale pathos more in k[eep]ing with a larger, conventional thea[tre].

That was a mistake in an intere[sting] experiment with a pint-sized play [...] on a Rhine steamer, that is sche[duled] after 20 performances in Bonn [to be] performed in other Rhine cities.

Wolfgang Stauch-von Qu[...]

(Nordwest Zeitung, 10 Februar[y 1981])


The *Moby Dick*, where Kohout's *Play Macbeth* was staged in Bonn (Photo: [...])

■ LITERATURE

Polish studies flourish in Darmstadt

Karl Dedecius (Photo: dpa)

[T]he Polish Institute in Darmstadt has just celebrated its first anniversary. [Hou]sed in a pre-Raphaelite style villa by [Joseph] Maria Olbrich, the institute breaks [...] of the usual arrangement whereby [rese]arch into a country's history and culture is done either at university departments or in the national cultural institutes of the countries concerned.

The Darmstadt institute filled a gap [...] by familiar political developments but not only by them. Though [there] are a comparatively large number [of c]hairs of Slavonic studies in Germany, Polish studies, like Bohemian studies, tend to be neglected.

On the other hand there is no official [Po]lish cultural institute in West Germany, just as there is no official West [Ger]man cultural institute in Warsaw. The reason for this is the refusal by [the] *entire East* Bloc except Rumania to establish normal cultural relations with West Germany.

Despite these structural difficulties, cultural interchange between the two countries 10 years after the Warsaw treaty is intense, at both unofficial and semi-official levels.

A Polish Week in West Germany, German Film and Theatre Festival in Warsaw, an exchange of graphic art exhibitions, colloquia, discussions and German-Polish school conferences have been held.

The foundation of the institute must mainly be credited to the years of effort by Karl Dedecius, who finally became its director.

Born in Lodz in 1921, Dedecius grew up in both cultures, German and the Polish. He does not feel that he is just a translator or a university lecturer in Polish.

His literary activity (60 of his own works and translations have been published) is broad-based but has tended in recent years to concentrate increasingly on outstanding modern Polish poets: Tadeusz Rozewicz, Zbigniew Herbert, Czeslaw Milosz and others.

Of course love of Polish literature alone is not enough to found and keep an expensive institute running.

Dedecius also persuaded the Bonn government, Hesse, the Rhineland-Palatinate and private backers to fund the institute. He likewise persuaded Darmstadt to allow the institute to use its present home rent-free.

The institute staff, translators and university lecturers, are now building up a fine library. As this is only partly financed, they are asking the general public for donations.

However, editorial work is the linchpin of the institute's activity. Suhrkamp Verlag will soon be launching a Polish Library, chosen by 20 leading Polish scholars in the German-speaking world.

Suhrkamp will pay production, advertising and sales costs, authors' fees and editorial costs will be borne by the Robert Bosch Foundation.

This year and next year Suhrkamp will publishing editions of the work of the three Polish Nobel Prize winners Sienkiewicz, Reymont and Milosz and works by Mickiewicz, Korczak and Rozewicz.

The institute's second major project is an exhaustive anthology with details of authors and bilingual references to literary sources.

This five-volume "Handbook of Contemporary Polish Literature" is being financed by the Volkswagen Foundation.

The Polish authorities look with favour on the work of the institute, if only because its honorary president is Marion Gräfin Dönhoff. Karl Dedecius' work is also published and highly thought of in Poland.

At the end of November the Warsaw daily *Polityka* published an interview with him which had been conducted in June 1979, just before the institute was founded.

That the publication took so long can certainly be attributed to the work of the Polish censors in this period.

Karl Dedecius does not consider this especially important. He says he wants the institute to be as independent as possible from changes in the overall political climate between the two countries.

Dedecius said that one of the tragedies of German history is that we never knew enough about the Slavs. This, he says, has got to change.

This is the underlying philosophy of the institute. This, and its founder's passion for Polish literature, which he has been translating brilliantly into German for the past 20 years!

Werner Paul

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 February 1981)

Academy awards

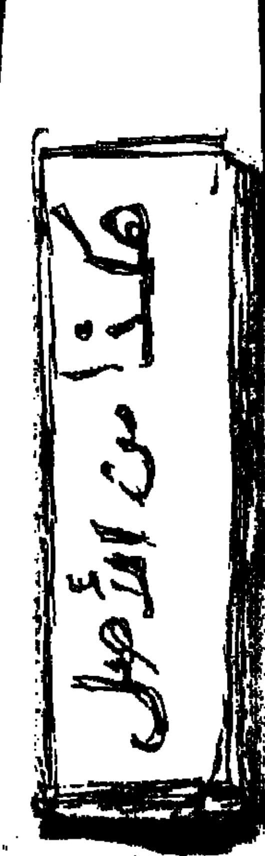
The German Academy of Language and Literature has awarded the Johann Heinrich Voss Translation Prize to Slavist Wolfgang Kasack and the Friedrich Gundolf Prize for German Studies abroad to Briton Leonard W. Forster. Both prizes are worth DM10,000.

Wolfgang Kasack, 53, is an expert and active supporter of Russian literature in Germany. He is Professor of Slavonic Literature at the University of Cologne.

Leonard Forster of Cambridge University is one of Britain's leading German scholars. His speciality is German literature of the Renaissance and the Baroque.

dpa

(Allgemeine Zeitung, 4 February 1981)



■ HEALTH

New rheumatism drug may halt the progress of tissue decay, specialists claim

A new anti-rheumatism drug recently authorised for sale by the Federal Health Office, West Berlin, is said to be more compatible than its competitors and at least as effective in alleviating the symptoms of inflamed rheumatism.

Its main recommendation, though, is that it halts the continuing inflammation process. Does this mean a breakthrough in the treatment of rheumatism?

At a recent conference in Hamburg some of the scientists and doctors involved in the development and clinical testing of this new drug, benoxaprofen, marketed as Coxigon, were interviewed.

The drug is marketed by Eli Lilly, a US company with a very strong research department.

Rheumatism is rated the most expensive illness in the world. It is practically incurable. Sufferers become increasingly restricted in their movements as they grow older. Many become completely incapacitated.

There are a good ten million rheumatism sufferers in West Germany, three million of whom receive regular medical treatment.

The costs of this treatment amount to DM7bn per annum. Absence from work and premature invalidity through rheumatism cost the economy about DM30bn per annum.

Karl Chlud of the rheumatism department at Kaiser Franz Joseph Hospital, Vienna, summarised methods of rheumatism treatment to date.

He said doctors had concentrated on treating inflammatory forms of rheumatism such as chronic polyarthritis of the joints and in doing their best to help their patients to regain as much mobility as possible.

Nature cures, diets and physical therapies such as bathing also played an important part until a few years ago, when the era of anti-rheumatism drugs began.

Even these drugs have up to now only been able to combat the symptoms of patients with inflammatory forms of rheumatism. The disease continues to progress inexorably, though in some cases somewhat more slowly.

Drug-based rheumatism therapy had *two severe disadvantages for the patient.* First in many cases the drugs become less effective the longer the patient takes them, and the painful symptoms return.

Second, they have more or less unpleasant side-effects. The side-effects of cortisone for example, are notorious. Because of these effects, prescription of cortisones is avoided wherever possible in rheumatism therapy today.

In the past few years, the trend has been towards using non-steroid drugs. But some patients find even these hard to take over long periods because they can cause stomach pains, ulcers and intestinal bleeding.

This wearing-off of the effect and increase in side-effects means that many patients ask their doctors to prescribe fresh drugs.

This partly explains the large number of similar anti-rheumatism products on the pharmaceutical market.

Dr Chlud said that it could be regarded as a therapeutical step forward if patients did not switch from one drug to another in the first two years of treatment.

He said he started using a new drug at his clinic three years ago. Of a total of thirty patients, 18 were still taking it over a year later. Of them, over ninety per cent are still taking it. This was an *unusually high success rate.*

Professor D. A. Willoughby of London University department of experimental pathology said the reason for the better compatibility of this new drug was its slight prostaglandin inhibition, even though it was a non-steroid drug.

The side-effects of this drug are occasional itching and burning of the skin. Sometimes, patients' fingernails also come loose from the bed of the nail, but *these complaints are insignificant* in view of the excellent therapeutic results.

The real breakthrough only comes, however, when the drugs start coming to grips with the causes rather than just the symptoms of the process of inflammation.

Drug development in this area has been held back because no-one really knew what caused this chronic inflammation.

Professor Ernst-Martin Lemmel of the rheumatological and immunological department of Mainz University said there were indications of defence mechanisms against body and foreign tissue, but not enough clear-cut evidence to prove an immune response.

Professor Lemmel is one of the leading figures in research into the causes of rheumatism. His theory is that the chronic inflammation process characteristic of rheumatism is the result of a regulatory disorder involving monocytes.

Monocytes, cells circulating in the blood, homed in on areas of tissue damage. Their function was to heal, but they also released tissue-destroying enzymes.

Damage to the tissue increased and a chain reaction brought in other defensive substances, such as lymph cells,

Continued on page 14



From peg leg to artificial limb

The Prince of Homburg's celebrated peg leg (left) is more than 300 years old. It can still be seen in the family castle near Frankfurt. A modern artificial limb (right) uses *less padding* and more comfortable materials designed for comfort and a perfect fit. And you don't have to be a prince to afford the latest in artificial aids of this kind, as a million West German amputees prove. (Photo: Center Press)

Minister raps cadmium risk

North Rhine-Westphalian Health and Labour Minister Friedhelm Farthmann (SPD) says industry plays down the health risk of cadmium.

If his appeals and those of other Ministers proved fruitless, they would have to consider a ban on the use of both cadmium and lead.

He said that last April, on behalf of the Conference of Ministers of the Environment, he had called on industry to stop using heavy metals such as lead and cadmium.

They were to develop production processes in which the use of such environmentally dangerous substances would be unnecessary.

Farthmann said: "Unfortunately I now see that this appeal has obviously had no effect. Industry has still not made clear what measures it intends to take to reduce the use of cadmium and other heavy metals."

The Minister made this statement in reply to the Confederation of German Industry, which had played down the harmful effects of cadmium.

It published a statement saying that the official statistics of the insurance companies showed that only four people had suffered from cadmium poisoning since 1969.

Herr Farthmann said that statements like these simply ignored the essential problem and distracted from it in an unacceptable manner.

The issue was not the effects of cadmium at the place of work but the high cadmium contents in the soil near large industrial plants.

As heavy metals could not be broken down biologically, these concentrations must finally lead to unacceptable concentrations of heavy metals, he said.

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 February 1981)

Doctor and pati[...] fail to connec[...] says Tübingen p[...]

Tübingen specialist Professor [...] Erhard Bock warned doctors [...] logne that lack of communication [...] tween doctors and patients was [...] problem.

He said that if it did not [...] there would be a serious change [...] tions between the two.

Doctors' willingness to talk [...] patients had sunk alarmingly. [...] neral practitioners simply [...] diagnosis and prescribed the [...] medicines.

This impersonal approach wa[...] *more apparent in hospitals,* where [...] munication between doctors and [...] had real rarity value.

He was speaking at the Progra[...] In-Service Training in Medicine [...] in Cologne. The emphasis is on [...] courses for doctors who run in-[...] training courses.

He told the 500 or so doctors [...] forum that doctors not only talk[...] infrequently with their patients [...] when they did so what they said [...] technical and not human enough.

These talks, if conducted pr[...] could, in 60 to 90 per cent of [...] achieve a correct diagnosis even [...] the examination proper had begun.

"They should underline the [...] role of the patient as a cooperator [...] own health. They should break [...] barriers of fear, inhibitions and [...] Empathy and sympathy are essenti[...]

"The subject and the content [...] be geared towards the patient's perso[...] ity. And the talk should not be [...] short!"

Everything depended on the [...] question technique. The doctor [...] not ask about when the patient's [...] pa or grandma died but concentra[...] stead on the patient himself, [...] what his complaints were, why he [...] come to the surgery and what the [...] lem was.

The genuinely sick person an[...] hypochondriac are usually grateful [...] conversation or discussion with the [...] tor and they should be given the [...] tunity to have one.

Professor Bock stressed howev[...] talking alone alone was not enough [...] said that the doctor's own li[...] should underline the consistency [...] attitude towards health.

Doctors, he said, should practise [...] they preach. His thesis did [...] uncontradicted. Professor Otto L[...] of Dortmund, chairman of the G[...] Medical Training Senate, tried to [...] vise Bock's attack, saying it could [...] to doctors *in hospitals* but not [...] tors in private practice.

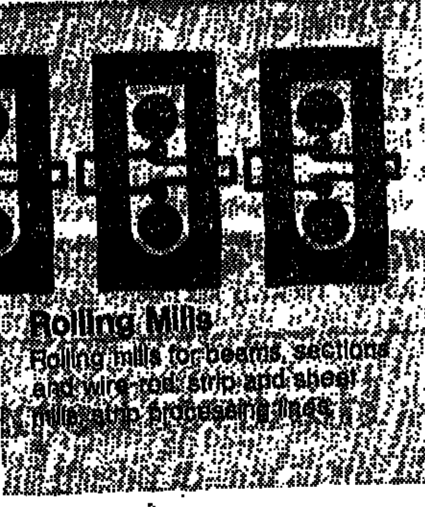
And, of course, it was pointed [...] that the fees paid for merely adv[...] talking to patients were too [...] Professor Bock also got supp[...] official quarters.

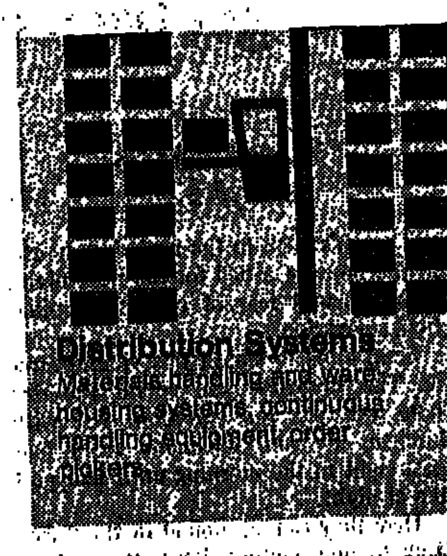
Professor Hanns Peter W[...] Munich, chairman of the Scie[...] visory Council of the Germa[...] Association, mentioned the [...] unreliability of many patients [...] what the doctor ordered and [...] prescribed medicines.

This phenomenon, known [...] compliance, occurred in many [...] cause doctors had not taken [...] time and trouble to explain [...] the patient.

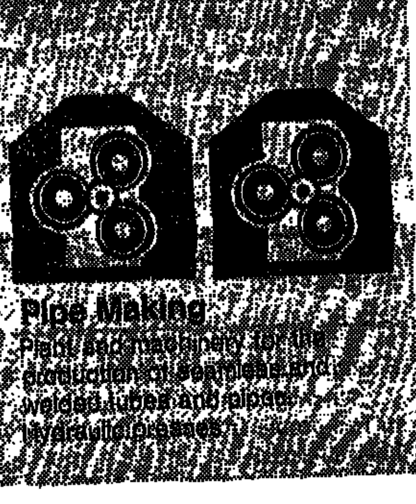
Ladislaus K[...]

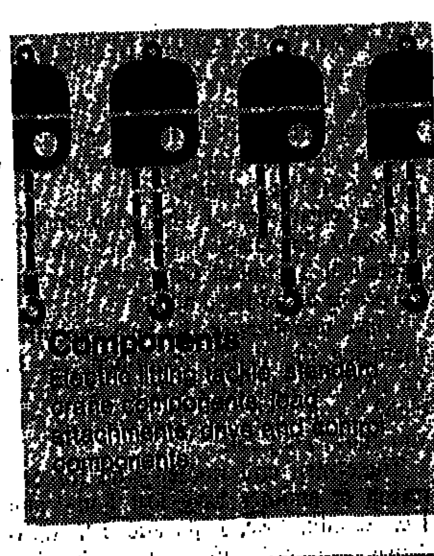
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 Janua[...])

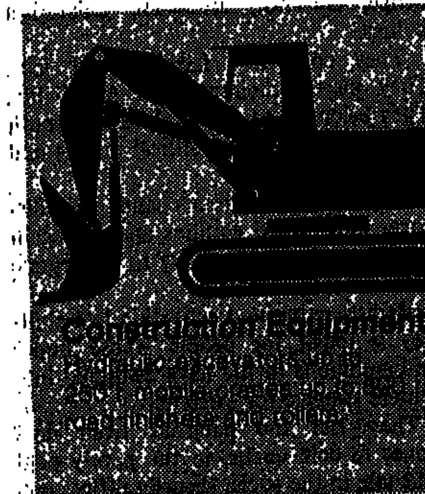


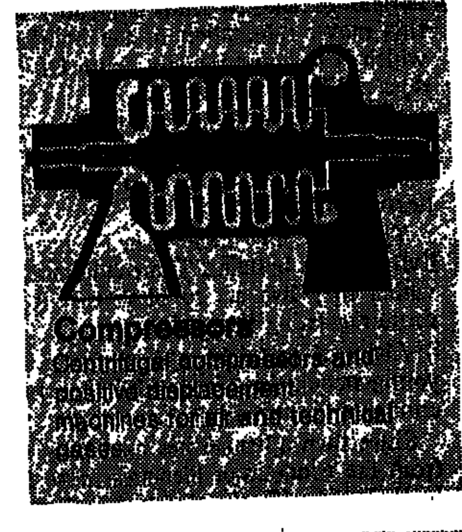


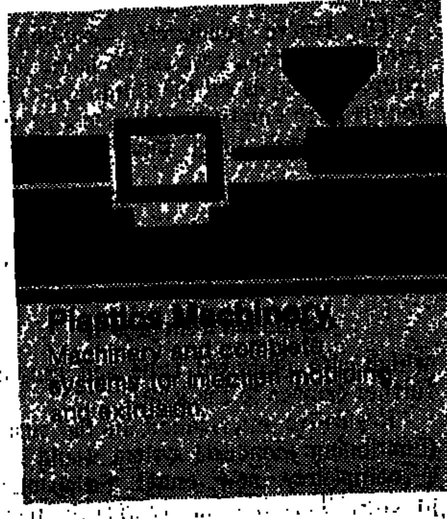














■ MODERN LIVING

Stuttgart squatters help themselves, upsetting the authorities

There is often a depressing familiarity about the careers of dossers: deprived home background, marital bust-up and divorce, illness, loss of work, the inexorable lurch towards Skid Row.

The number of homeless in West Germany is increasing every year, as is society's inability to cope with them.

The attitude of officialdom is highly ambivalent, as Stuttgart shows. Here, the homeless resorted to a method normally associated with students and other young people: squatting.

The first dossers' squat was in Christophstrasse 25, a building until recently the home of the Württemberg Biblical Institute.

When it was vacated, the city authorities turned it into temporary accommodation for the homeless. Originally it was planned to accommodate 80 people, but soon 220 were crowding into it.

On 8 January, the occupants of 25 had had enough and moved next door into 25a, which has been unoccupied for some weeks.

Mayor Manfred Rommel and the city authorities showed some sympathy for this move. Renovation of the building, which is to house the city Youth Office, does not begin until April.

They city authorities provided camp beds and blankets and free hot meals at the weekends. They are also paying the heating bills.

There are now more than 80 people living in the building. The conditions in which they live are so bleak that it is more vegetating than living.

About a fortnight ago, a group of young people in 25a decided they had enough and moved into the next house.

Since then a banner has been hanging from the windows of Bismarckstrasse 57 in Stuttgart with the slogan: "It's better to squat than to freeze and rot."

The twelve youngsters, including a pregnant woman, have set up home in a couple of rooms on the third floor. The rooms were empty because the city authorities were using them for emergencies, for families who had to evacuate their homes in the event of fire, storms or some other disaster.

This was too much for the Stuttgart authorities, who have decided to make an example of this group of squatters.

The main argument for taking tough measures against this group is that the whole thing could snowball: the more Stuttgart does for the homeless, the more outsiders could be attracted to the city as a result.

Manfred Gann, director of the Stuttgart Housing Office, complains that there are already ten new dossers a day homing in in holy hope of a home in Stuttgart.

Gann and local social security office director Dieter Rilling personally brought the squatters a notice to quit the building after previously spending two and a half hours trying to persuade them to move out of their own accord.

They still did not budge. The next move will be forcible eviction by the police.

Hundreds of other homeless from all over Stuttgart have promised support, so that the eviction, when it happens, could meet with stiff resistance.

If the dossers are evicted, they are determined to move in somewhere else. Does this mean escalation is inevitable?

Rilling and Gann say the city authorities and local councils have together made available over 500 places for these people to stay.

They also point out that there are over 4,500 Stuttgart people on the emergency housing register and that these people must have priority.

Rilling says it would be fairer if the homeless made their protests in towns and cities which are less liberal in their treatment of the homeless than Stuttgart.

The homeless people's spokesman said that talk by the city authorities about "satisfaction" among the homeless in the former Bible Institute was an exaggeration:

"They are only satisfied because they are exhausted by the system of circulation. What happens is someone gives you a warm sandwich, a ticket and the advice to go back where you came from."

The city authorities have a suspicion that the squatters have other aims in mind. Asked to specify what these further aims are, they hint darkly at something political.

They are determined not to tolerate any action in which chaos or the law of the jungle rule.

There is also talk of the individual not having the right to expect the community as a whole to take responsibility for his fate.

The homeless people in Bismarckstrasse have promised the move out of the rooms if they are needed in an emergency, but the city authorities are unrelenting. They city has made a decision, a political decision, not to give an [...] the unwelcome guests.

The demanding attitude of the [...] less is loud and disagreeably clear [...] zeal of battle they are inclined to [...] down and indeed ignore all that the [...] has done.

Their sympathy for a state and [...] ciety which has given them work [...] out a fixed abode or a fixed abode [...] out work is minimal.

And they have little faith in the [...] ability to help them, imaginatively [...] unbureaucratically, to find accom[...] tion. In this respect they are right.

Willy Knapp, one of the home[...] said that in six weeks they had [...] 136 unoccupied flats, most of [...] owned by the city.

Knapp, a heating engineer, was [...] ed leader of the squatters in Bism[...] strasse some weeks ago. He keeps [...] people under tight control. There [...] been no trouble at all in his place [...] he took over, whereas the police [...] and out all day next door.

Fifteen of his 80 people have jobs [...] others go along to local job [...] every day asking if there are any [...] going.

But for the majority, frustration [...] alcohol rule. A white-haired man on [...] second floor told me: "We'd have to [...] drunk, wouldn't we, or we wouldn't [...] able to stand it."

Rilling predicts that more and [...] people are going to fall through the [...] work of the West German social se[...] ty system.

Many of these people simply can[...] cope, and stern appeals to them to [...] on their own two feet are utterly use[...]

In many cases, society does not [...] provide what is necessary to help [...] avoid the worst.

Peter [...]

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 January 1981)

Rheumatism drug

Continued from page 12

which also destroyed issue and caused further damage to the joint:

"Regulative intervention in the malfunctioning monocyte system would be a completely new causal therapeutic process." This, it seems, is what the new anti-rheumatism drug does.

Dr Dawson, director of the Lilly Research Centre in Windlesham, England, where the substance was discovered in 1971, explained that it was the only non-hormonal drug to stop or reduce the movement of monocytes in the body.

Professor Lemmel said it could break the vicious circle of continuing rheumatic destruction of tissue. There were many indications that this was actually the case, as Chlud and Shedden said.

However, the drug has not been in use long enough for long-term comparisons of patients' X-rays. Research into this is now going on throughout the world.

Dieter Dietrich

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 January 1981)

Hanover helps the homeless to get back on their feet





Sewo sounds like an African freedom movement, and indeed its purpose is to free people from conditions unfit for human beings.

Its headquarters are not in Uganda or Tanzania but in the Hanover working class district of Linden. It stands for "Homeless Self Help."

It is a corner shop converted into day-time accommodation for people commonly and contemptuously referred to as "dossers" or "tramps."

The organisers of this club include not only the Diaconical Work and the Protestant Technical University but also 20 people of no fixed abode.

Three members of the club executive, including the deputy chairman, are of no fixed abode. "How can dossers run a club? " you may wonder. But they can, you know. They can.

These men and women who for one reason or another have lost home and job, warmth, love, hope and self-confidence, are not, after all, ahistorical beings.

They once had families and jobs. They played their part in social life. They belonged to sports clubs and youth associations, unions, political parties and churches.

For them, Sewo is a chance to rediscover long-buried abilities and to regain confidence before they try to reintegrate themselves into society.

Rediscovering and activating lost abilities is tough for people whose hopes and ambitions in life have dwindled into a mere struggle for existence.

They run the gauntlet from doss house to dole queue, to the poorly paid odd job, to the social security office, pub or street corner.

Then it's back to the next doss house, in the hope of a bed for the next night, with constant fear of checks, humiliation, aggression.

Sewo aims to smash this vicious circle. The homeless can spend the day here, can use the two-room flat with kitchen, TV and telephone from half past eight in the morning until half past ten at night.

Here they can sit around in the warm. Talk to one another. Read. Write. Find themselves.

They can make contact with other people who accept them. Students from the Technical University and local people come in for a chat.

The locals were hostile at first but they are now tolerant and even well-disposed towards the scheme. They have found the men at Sewo helpful and friendly. They clear snow, give a push if a car will not start.

The landlord gave the group a probation period of four weeks. The experiment was a success. Scepticism has turned to sympathy.

Of course the men who live there have not turned into paragons of virtue overnight. But they hit the bottle less often than before. Since the place [...] opened there has been an apprec[...] drop in their alcohol consumption.

They have found it better to [...] less. After all, there are frequently [...] tors, there are phone calls to be [...] domestic matters to be dealt with.

The Technical University's first [...] on the experiment puts it trench[...] "Drunkenness is no longer a featu[...] behaviour patterns in communi[...] with third parties."

Is Sewo a "way back into society [...] Herbert Kubis, Professor at Ha[...] Protestant University, warns against [...] sions.

The probationary return to no[...] society combined with total separ[...] from past friends was fraught, he [...] with fears and many problems: [...] would not really be accepting the [...] less if we insisted at all costs on [...] ing our life styles, which were often [...] cause of their problem in the [...] place."

The aim was to set up similar "sh[...] or centres and eventually a house [...] them homeless and to reintroduce [...] carefully and gradually into society.

He describes the aim of Sewo [...] terms which are sober and realistic [...] conscience-stirring: "Poverty work[...] human beings."

Horst [...]

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 1 February [...])

■ SPORT

Stuttgart pair win Innsbruck silver

[...]oviet scouts followed every move on the Innsbruck ice by West German skaters Christina Riegel and Andreas [...]witz. This scrutiny made them feel [...] must stand a chance at the Euro[...] championships.

[...]hey ended winning the silver medal, [...] it was only a European, not a world [...], but it was the best performance by [...]est German couple on the ice for 14 [...]

[...]was the climax so far of a career [...] began in Stuttgart when Tina, 12, [...]ated two men with her determination and nonchalance.

They were skater Andreas Nischwitz, 23, and trainer Karel Fajfr, a former skater from Czechoslovakia.

[...]na, now 15, could wrap both men [...] her little finger and still can. [...] she wants she gets."

[...], who first coached her at pair [...]ing, could see that Andreas Nischwitz was heading for trouble with Susanne Scheibe, who was his partner three years ago.

He coached Tina for a potential partner and soon had a promising youngster to skate with Nischwitz.

"I don't bother myself with prospects that are limited from the start," Fajfr says, recollecting that Nischwitz and Riegel began as a combination far from unusual in skating.

He was a man while she was still a child, albeit an extremely talented one. But she has gone from strength to strength and has still to reach her peak.

"She is completely sure of herself, although she is not yet his equal for repertoire," the coach says. She gives her partner confidence too.

She derives part of her power on the ice from vanity, her effect on the audience. She is not in the least interested in the competition.

She firmly believes in herself and her future on ice. She still goes to school and the others are more interested in seeing her pass school-leaving exams than she is.

"Independence is our forte," says Fajfr. "If Andreas were to retire today he would qualify as a dentist; if he carries on skating for a couple of years he will still do so."

Fajfr is determined to retain his independence too, although at present skating predominates.

He is an architect by profession and works for a housing corporation in Stuttgart, but in the evening he often doesn't leave the rink until 1am.

So his is a 16-hour day and he frequently has to make do with three or four hours' sleep. But he is adamant that skating is not going to be his career. He feels it is extremely important to remain independent of officialdom and be able to criticise officials when the need arises. "Ideally, as opposed to materially, much is at stake," he says. "But ice skating must not be allowed to become all-important in life."

This attitude helps his pair to take it easy, although there can be no denying that he is nervous on the day, smoking twice as many cigarettes as normal.

Under his guidance Andreas Nischwitz has matured as a personality and a sportsman who practises sport for its own sake and does not cling to it or regard it as the be-all and end-all of his life.

Tina Riegel is still an uncomplicated girl who was not unduly upset to discover that her kitbag with the silver medal in it had been lost (she left it on the bus).

When it was returned by the police all she said was: "Oh look, the medal's still there." In Stuttgart ice skating is still very much down to earth, it seems.

Promising youngsters Andreas Nischwitz and Tina Riegel have retained a healthy sense of proportion.

Christiane Moravetz

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 February 1981)

[...]t Schramm, a 20-year-old student [...] Oberstdorf, won bronze at the [...]pean ice skating championships in [...]bruck, Austria, with a dazzling free [...]ing performance that seemed to mark [...] start of a truly great career.

Tina Riegel and Andreas Nischwitz (Photos: Werek)

Hartmut Weber world's best over 400m

Hartmut Weber, 20, from Dortmund set up a new indoor world record 45.96 sec. in the 400 metres at the [...]st German championships in Sindelfingen, near Stuttgart.

[...]is face is pale. So are his arms and [...] He obviously trains in a tracksuit [...] not in shorts and without a singlet [...] the like.

[...]e evidently does not go in for sun[...]ing either. His pale complexion [...] him a distinctly ascetic look. But [...] certainly can run.

[...]s time indoors was the equivalent [...] roughly 45.3 seconds round an out[...] 400 metre lap, which is a perfor[...]ce little short of Harald Schmid's.

[...]ou would hardly believe they both [...]ed from a succession of German [...]ter-milers beginning with Karl[...]drich Haas, who won Olympic silver [...] Melbourne in 1956.

[...]ermany has been blessed with fine [...]metre men ever since. Weber, un[...] Schmid, is reminiscent of Haas in [...] ways. He runs as straight as a die, [...] his pace under perfect control; he is [...]nce of sprinters.

[...]ntanned Schmid is a powerhouse in [...]parison. Weber is a slender mathe[...]cs student, wears glasses and has [...]n-cut features. At first glance they [...]d not seem to have much in com[...]

[...]d they share unbounden self-con[...]nce. If anything Weber, who is three [...] the younger, is even more self-[...]ted than Schmid.

[...]e has, however, been in the lime[...] since 1979 when he won the European championship title for juniors in a superb 400 metres time of 45.77 seconds.

Later that season he also ran third in the 4x400 metres relay at the European Cup competition in Turin. He handed over the baton to Schmid, who went on to win his third gold medal.

The day before, Schmid had won both the 400 metres sprint and the 400 metres hurdles. What was more, he did so within the space of an hour.

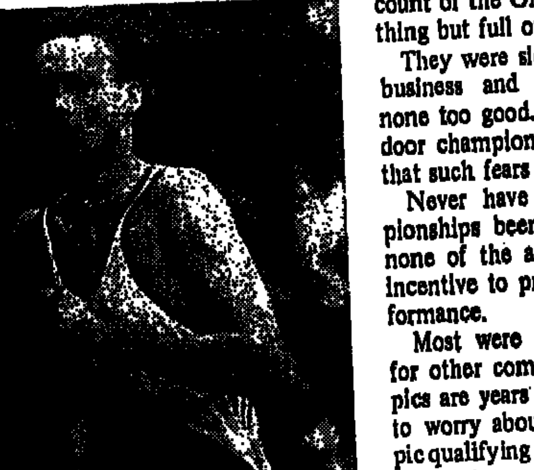
This year the European Cup competition is to be held in Zagreb, but Weber says the authorities would do better not to repeat the 1979 experiment. This time he aims to be the No. 1.

One reason why West Germany has always fielded such fine 400 metre specialists is surely that there always seems to have been a challenger to keep established stars on their toes.

By next year at the latest Hartmut Weber wants to establish himself as one of the all-time greats in the 400 metres hurdles.

He reckons he has overcome his dislike of the 10 hurdles since he fell and broke an arm over the distance at the 1977 national youth championships.

That too was in Sindelfingen, only a mile and a half from the indoor arena where he set up his new world record.



Hartmut Weber (Photo: Schirner)

He is currently a conscript serving in the Bundeswehr sports company at Warendorf, Westphalia, until next autumn. Until then he will be able to lay the groundwork for his sporting future by putting in eight to ten training sessions a week.

Later he hopes to put this groundwork to good use when he competes with US world record-holder Ed Moses and his local rival Harald Schmid. He can afford to wait. He still has time.

Robert Hartmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 February 1981)

Sindelfingen record spree

When the last victory ceremony was over at the 29th German indoor athletics championships in Sindelfingen, near Stuttgart, both the athletes and a capacity crowd of 4,500 breathed a sigh of happy relief. One world record and 14 West German records were set up at Sindelfingen. It was the best bag in the history of the championships.

Never have the Olympics been such a distant prospect as at present. West German athletes last competed at Montreal and the next Games are not for another three years. Who knows what will have happened by then!

Small wonder that sports officials were worried whether the Olympic spirit would last the distance.

It is widely felt that the Olympic spirit, whatever one takes it to mean, must beconstantlyfostered to ensure that medals are won and standards are not allowed to slip.

Yet last season West German athletes, unable to compete at Moscow on account of the Olympic boycott, were anything but full of the Olympic spirit.

They were sick and tired of the whole business and future prospects looked none too good. But the Sindelfingen indoor championships have amply proved that such fears were unfounded.

Never have amateur athletics championships been so superb, even though none of the athletes had any particular incentive to provide an outstanding performance.

Most were planning to peak in time for other competitions. The next Olympics are years away, so they had no need to worry about failing to deliver Olympic qualifying times and distances.

Yet the records and personal best performances set up at Sindelfingen were an impressive demonstration of talent.

Maybe the athletes did so well because they were not under pressure to deliver the goods, of course. Sindelfingen could well be argued to be the result of a general relaxation of tension.

Maybe it would be better to make athletes feel they are not personally responsible for maintaining their country's Olympic prestige. Maybe they would not then constantly be afraid of proving a failure.

It is only an idea, of course. Athletes have muscles, tendons and nerves. They can be kept in trim. But there is no way of tuning what goes on in their minds.

So all that can be done is probably to prepare for the next Olympics in a cooler, calmer and much more relaxed manner.

Ludwig Dotzert

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 February 1981)